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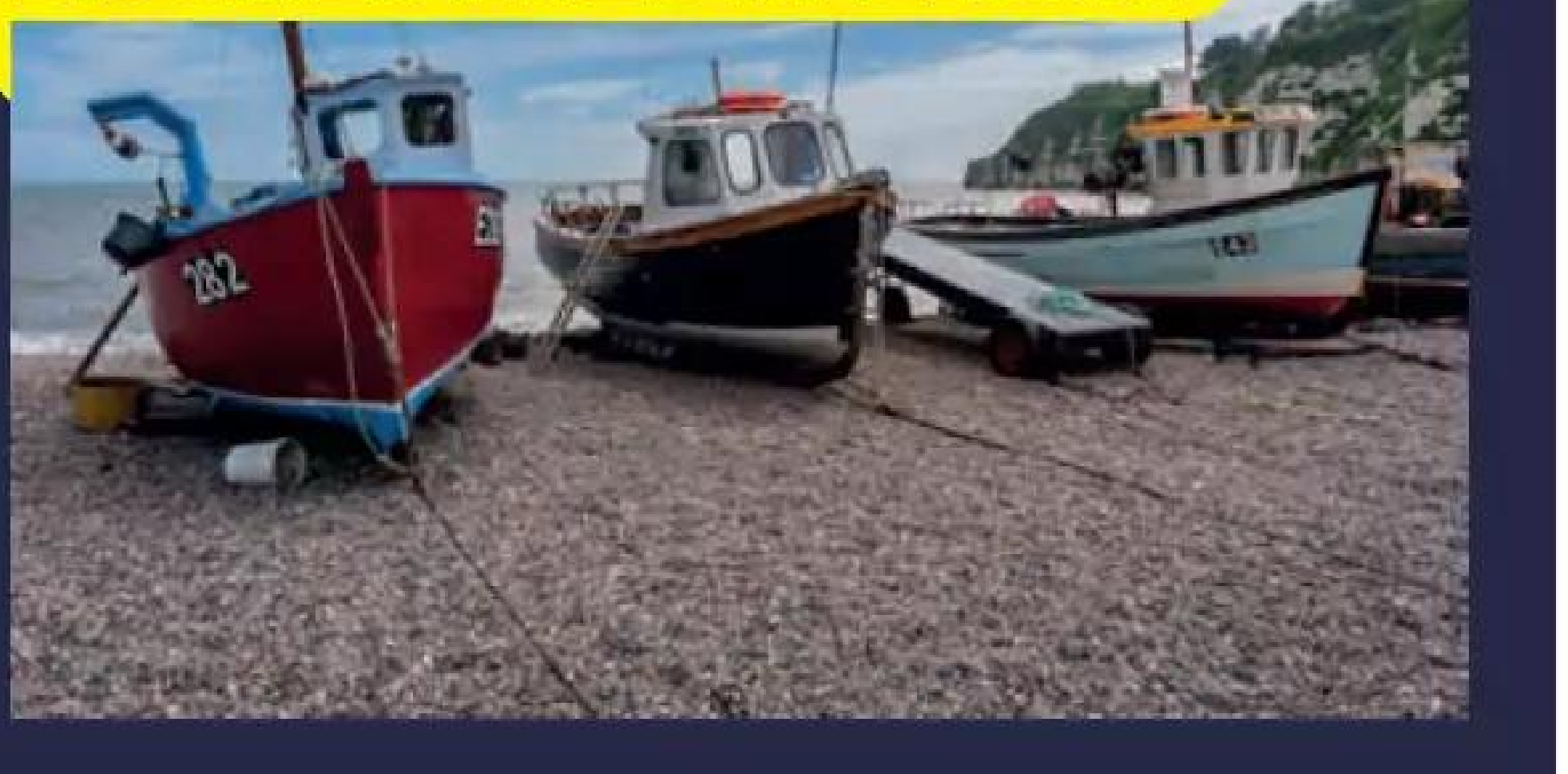
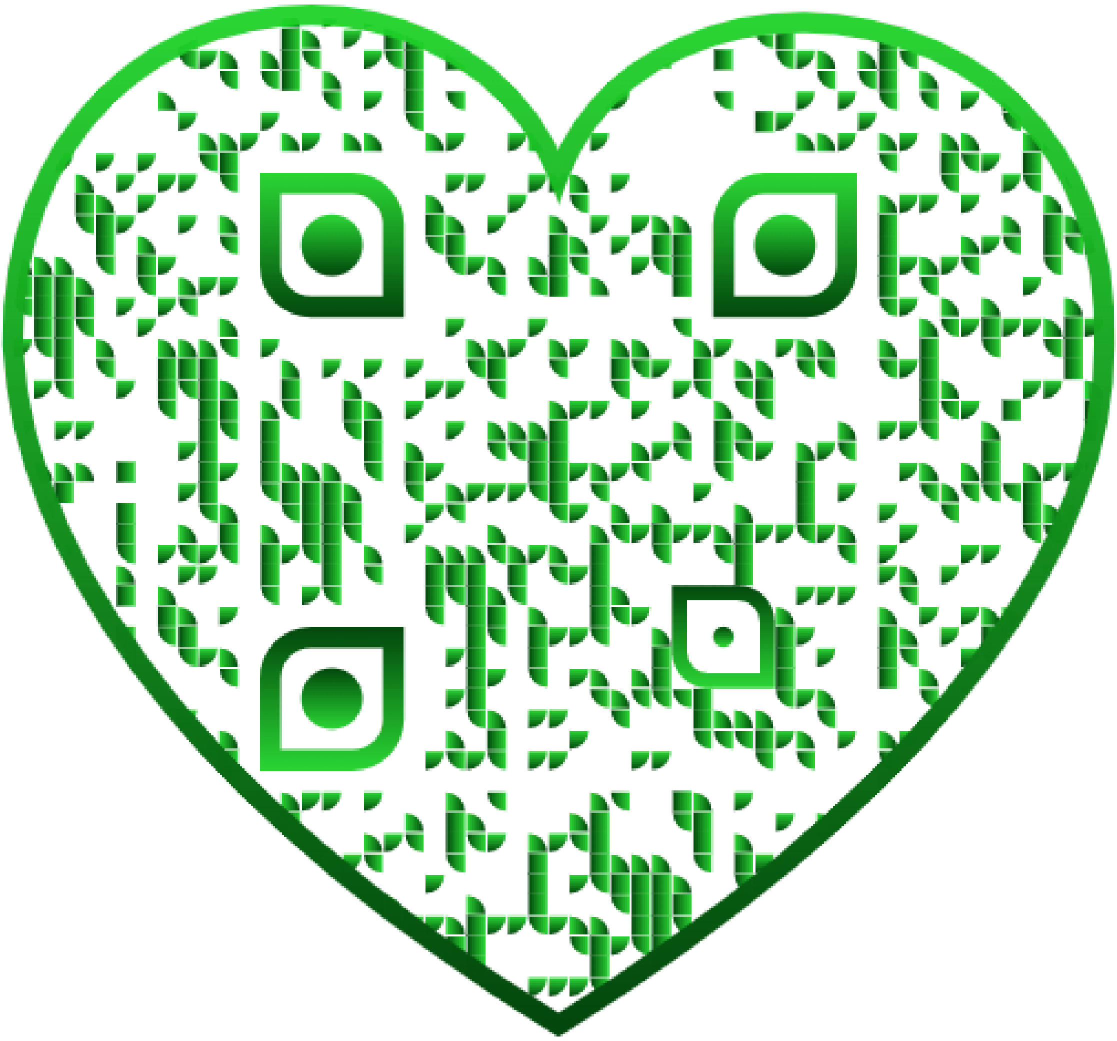


Gigantic red cliffs, black swans, tree ferns and a thatched village



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Dalai Lama

VAL CHAPMAN GUEST EDITOR

It's bargain time! If you are looking for a new caravan, now is a great time to take advantage of some special price reductions. That's because many retailers are cutting prices to make room for the 2026 caravans that will, later this summer, be arriving with them. Your search will reveal plenty of caravans that have drastically reduced prices. We didn't have to look far to discover many reductions of £3,000 and £4,000 – and a smattering of new models with even greater reductions. Whatever spec, size and level of luxury you are seeking, right now, you can be sure that you can save a substantial amount of money. The best place to start searching is on Caravans for Sale, on our website, Out & About Live (outandaboutlive.co.uk/for-sale/caravans), where you will find hundreds of caravans listed. Happy hunting!

MEET THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS

Lee Davey

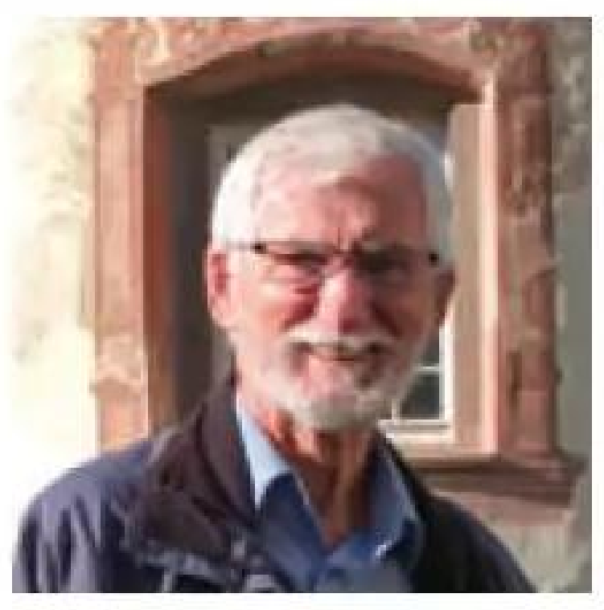
Claire Tupholme

Daniel Attwood

Helen Werin

Brian Symonds

Susie Kearley


Tim Griffiths

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Susie Kearley/Alamy

CONTACT US Warners Group Publications plc, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH **E** caravan@warnersgroup.co.uk **W** outandaboutlive.co.uk

MANAGEMENT
PUBLISHER John Greenwood
MANAGING DIRECTOR Stephen Warner

MARKETING
BRAND MANAGER
Lucie Cox **T** 01778 395016

EDITORIAL
HEAD OF CONTENT Daniel Attwood
E danielattwood@warnersgroup.co.uk

GUEST EDITOR Val Chapman
E caravan@warnersgroup.co.uk
CONTENT EDITOR Macaulay Nichol
ONLINE EDITORS Jack Hart and Dean Ruane
DESIGN Dan Jarman

ADVERTISING
GROUP HEAD OF ADVERTISING
Fleur Chivers **T** 01778 392071
KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER
Zellah Stark **T** 01778 392093

MEDIA SALES EXECUTIVE
Emma Hill **T** 01778 392057

PARKS ADVERTISING
GROUP COMMERCIAL MANAGER
Ashleigh Chadwick **T** 01778 392050
MEDIA SALES EXECUTIVE
Diana Pierre **T** 01778 395019

AD PRODUCTION & DESIGN
Viv Lane **E** outdoorleisure@warnersgroup.co.uk

PRINTING Warners Midlands **W** warners.co.uk

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Bailey Phoenix GT75 640

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Grantham

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The glorious Gower

Dramatic views, a tidal island called The Worm, sunflowers, beach walks, a seaside town, and crickets hidden in sand dunes

Words & photography: Susie Kearley

It was a long drive from our home in Buckinghamshire to the Gower Peninsula, along narrow roads with traffic congestion. We arrived at our campsite and were delighted by the seafront location, right next to the beach. Skysea Caravan Site, in Port Eynon, is a great spot for exploring this beautiful part of Wales.

The village had an art exhibition on the day we arrived, so we moseyed down to the village hall, to have a look at the paintings and drawings of local places by local people. The village is popular among tourists, with an old church, the Ship Inn, cafés, ice cream parlours, and long sandy beaches.

We followed the coast path from the beach to Port Eynon Point, a stunning headland, offering dramatic views across bays in both directions. The route took us up steep cliffs and across rocky terrain, until we reached a monument at the top. We took some photos, then followed another path, returning to the beach, where we spent the rest of the afternoon, soaking up the sunshine and the glorious scenery.

The following day, we drove to Rhossili, about five miles away. The car park belongs to the National Trust, which means it's free to members. That's always good news for us, as we are members and like to take advantage of the free parking. »

MAIN IMAGE Rhossili

This stretch of coast is remarkable. A definite 'wow' moment! I've actually never seen such a stunning coastline in the UK. The wide golden beach stretches for miles, the cliffs jut out into the ocean, and at low tide, for five hours, you can climb a tidal island called The Worm, also known as Worm's Head, which is cut off at high tide.

We walked along the headland towards The Worm, taking in the stunning views, then descended to the start of The Worm to see how difficult the route across the causeway would be. It's seriously challenging, and we didn't have the best footwear for the job. You have to scramble across rocks for some considerable distance, then climb a hill, and the tide would be coming in shortly. We didn't want to get cut off.

TOP
Rotherslade Bay

ABOVE RIGHT
The Mumbles

BOTTOM RIGHT
One of the promenade cafés at The Mumbles

TOP TIPS

- If you join the National Trust, you can park in as many National Trust car parks as you like for no extra charge, as well as enjoying free entry to the numerous properties. Over the years, National Trust car parks have saved us a fortune in car parking fees.
- If you're looking for an amazing place to watch the sunset, I can recommend the The Worm's Head Hotel on Rhossili.

TOP RIGHT
View from Port Eynon

ABOVE RIGHT
Oxwich Bay

We decided to pass on this occasion, but it's a definite contender for another time. It's best to come prepared and dressed for the experience. We'd like to have the full five hours before the tide is coming in, because my husband, Vic, is getting a little slow in his old age!

Another highlight was a sunflower field beside the bay, where the owners were charging £4 for entry, and allowing people to walk along paths through the flowers and buy sunflowers to take home. It seemed very entrepreneurial, popular, and a nice little earner. Lots of people were carrying sunflowers back to their cars.

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- Port Eynon
W enjoygower.com/port-eynon-bay

- Rhossili
W visitwales.com/attraction/beach/rhossili-bay-beach-1843187

- The Worm on Rhossili
W ohwhataknight.co.uk/blog/worms-head-hike-guide

- The Worm's Head Hotel
W thewormshead.co.uk

- Mumbles
W enjoygower.com/mumbles-overview

- Rotherslade Bay
W enjoygower.com/rotherslade-bay

- Oxwich Bay
W enjoygower.com/oxwich-bay

After thoroughly exploring the headland, we were feeling hungry and ready for lunch, so we stopped at the Worm's Head Hotel. They had some great bar food choices, including chilli bean curry with nachos, burgers, and Shepherd's pie. We ordered lentil burgers with chips. The food came quickly.

From the restaurant's elevated position on the clifftop, we looked down at people having fun on the beach and in the sea. The food was tasty and we relaxed with a drink before following the long path down to the bay. We spent the afternoon on the beach, which was busy, with people splashing around.

At the end of the day, we headed back to camp, and as we went up the exit road, we passed many cars heading into Rhossili Bay, presumably to eat, and maybe to watch the sunset, which would be stunning from there.

INSET
Saunas on the beach at Oxwich Bay

The following day, we visited The Mumbles, where a giant ferris wheel towers over the beach, and where people were enjoying amusement arcades, cafés, and long walks along the promenade.

A man with a guitar was busking and people were enjoying crazy golf on the lawns. The sun shone down as we ate a picnic on the sand, music reverberating in the background. We walked the full length of the promenade, looking at the seafront gardens and admiring the coastal views. This is a typical seaside town, and a popular one. It was hard for people to find a parking space in the afternoon!

We continued along the coast to Rotherslade Bay and walked out to the headlands. There are lots of small cafés and restaurants on the promenade, and hundreds of

»

beach huts. The coast walk from here is glorious. It's made up with Tarmac, so the walk is very easy underfoot, and the coast path is adorned with wildflowers.

The beach was busy. We found a quiet spot on sand to soak up the scenery, then sampled a cappuccino in a café, before continuing our coastal drive to our final stop, Oxwich Bay. It's one of the Gower Peninsula's most popular locations.

This beach was long and sandy, and very busy. It's accessed through a car park which costs £5 for all day. We didn't arrive until after 4.30pm, so didn't want to pay for all-day parking. We followed signs to Oxwich Castle, which was closed, but found free parking on the roadside near the castle, then walked back to the beach.

Oxwich Bay is glorious. There were water sports and wooden saunas like glamping pods on the sand. As we walked the length of the beach taking in the sights, we noticed the sounds of crickets, which seemed odd. In some places it sounded like we were surrounded by them, but we couldn't see them. We eventually decided that the sounds must be coming from the grassy sand dunes at the rear of the beach.

Beyond the beach is a nature reserve made up of grassy dunes, and we walked among them before settling on the beach for a while, enjoying the atmosphere and the sunshine. We returned to campsite thinking how lucky we'd been to have such glorious weather!

The following morning it was time to pack up and head home. We'd had a lovely weekend and it's definitely somewhere we'd like to return to for a longer holiday. ■

RIGHT Port Eynon

BELOW The Worm

WHERE WE STAYED

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W porteynon.com
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PRICE From £35

Skysea Caravan & Camping Site is well located to explore the Gower Peninsula, beside the beach at Port Eynon. This is a quiet campsite with a strict policy of family bookings only. No groups or partying, at risk of being removed! It's worth knowing that Gower Peninsula roads are narrow and windy in places, so drive carefully and always expect cars to appear behind blind bends on narrow roads – as they did for us!

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Confusion and charm in profusion

A coast of contrasts

Red cliffs, black swans, sedate charm, a 1920s tram, a model village packed with humour, a quaint thatched village, waterfalls, lakes, gardens, wetlands and more

This trip is confusing me. One moment I feel like I'm in New Zealand, surrounded by dense tree ferns in a damp and mossy glade above a waterfall.

A couple of hours later I'm bombarded by ker-chings of arcade games and the greasy smells of hot dogs and burgers, those unmistakeable trademarks of many a British seaside resort.

I'm especially disoriented looking down on a quintessential English village with a church and thatched cottages. A man in gardeners' overalls strides into this bucolic scene – and the buildings don't even come up to his knees.

On another mind-addling afternoon we're overwhelmed by huge cliffs as red as the Australian Outback. Another day finds me peering up at a giant Californian redwood, then shuffling through a creamy drift of bracts from a handkerchief tree, native to China. Then there are the black swans, a species that I last came across in an Australian park…

Thankfully I only have to turn my head slightly to spot signs for Devonshire clotted cream teas and freshly made Devon fudge, grounding me firmly in the south of the county. Nevertheless, the aforementioned anomalies have thrown me off-kilter; all part of the fun that is our exploration from the Jurassic Coast around Seaton, the red-cliff coast close to Sidmouth, to the tourist mecca of Torbay, with fishing opportunities, gorgeous gardens, vast dune-backed beaches, beautiful clifftop views and England's highest falls in between.

Without children in tow, compared with our last visit 25 years ago, this trip was always going to have a very different vibe. Perhaps I'm trying to fight the reality of ageing but, with the exception of the family-packed Torbay resorts, most other tourists were just like my husband, Robin, and I. »

MAIN IMAGE
Sidmouth, with its stunning red cliffs and golden beaches

Words: Helen Werin
Photography: Robin Weaver

I'd read that many of the region's towns 'retain their bygone charms'; very evident in sleepy Sidmouth, Beer and Colyton. Indeed, the tourist blurb for Budleigh Salterton as far back as 1818 described it as being 'well suited to persons of retired habits'. Nothing's changed there, then!

Budleigh Salterton is so wonderfully peaceful; that is until several ripples of unexpected loud gunfire (from the Straight Point firing range, used by the Royal Marines) make us jump during our walk along the coastal path high above the English Channel towards Sandy Bay. Far below us is a nudist beach shielded by the massive cliffs. Further along the long pebbly strand stands a row of colourful beach huts to rent. It's a world away from the fish and chip kiosks and seaside rock shops further southwest.

We're keen to visit Beer because it's been recommended as a 'charming' fishing village of seventeenth century buildings. However, when we key in Beer to our satnav it gives us a list of off-licences. That's not what we've come here for, though I'm amused to see the pub displaying a sign proclaiming 'I have had a beer in Beer'. The sheltered coves protected by high cliffs, with combes leading inland, made this area perfect for smugglers. Anything to do with a murky past and swashbuckling pirates and buccaneers intrigues me. I'm keen to know more as, two centuries ago, this sedate village was the headquarters of notorious smugglers led by Jack Rattenbury, Rob Roy of the West.

The displays in the heritage centre are more about the geology, marine and coastal environment than bandits and brigands, though I do learn that much of the smugglers' contraband was tobacco, spirits, silks and tea.

The main market nowadays is shellfish, particularly lobster and crab, and the kiosk on Sea Hill is where we find our tasty booty.

From Oakdown Touring and Holiday Caravan Park, where we stayed, it's only 12 minutes or so to Beer, Sidmouth and Seaton. As we walk westwards along the South West Coast Path from Sidmouth's long pebble beach, we're dwarfed by the monumental sandstone cliffs of this often-called Red Coast. Steep steps lead us up to Connaught Gardens on the clifftop where, after wandering past the café in the crenelated clock tower, pretty flower beds, under pergolas and through arches in these walled gardens, we arrive at views over Jacob's Ladder Beach (mostly pebble) in one direction and the town in the other.

Our trip's mostly timeless feeling is enhanced by a ride on a 1920s tram at Seaton. Here we rattle and roll over wetlands beside the River Axe estuary and through Colyford to picturesque Colyton. Returning

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● Over 100 lace workers from around Beer worked on the front panel of Queen Victoria's wedding gown, which took seven months to finish. The lace designs were destroyed so they could never be copied. Lace-making was taught in the local primary school up to the 1970s.

TOP LEFT
A pretty fishing village at Babbacombe Model Village

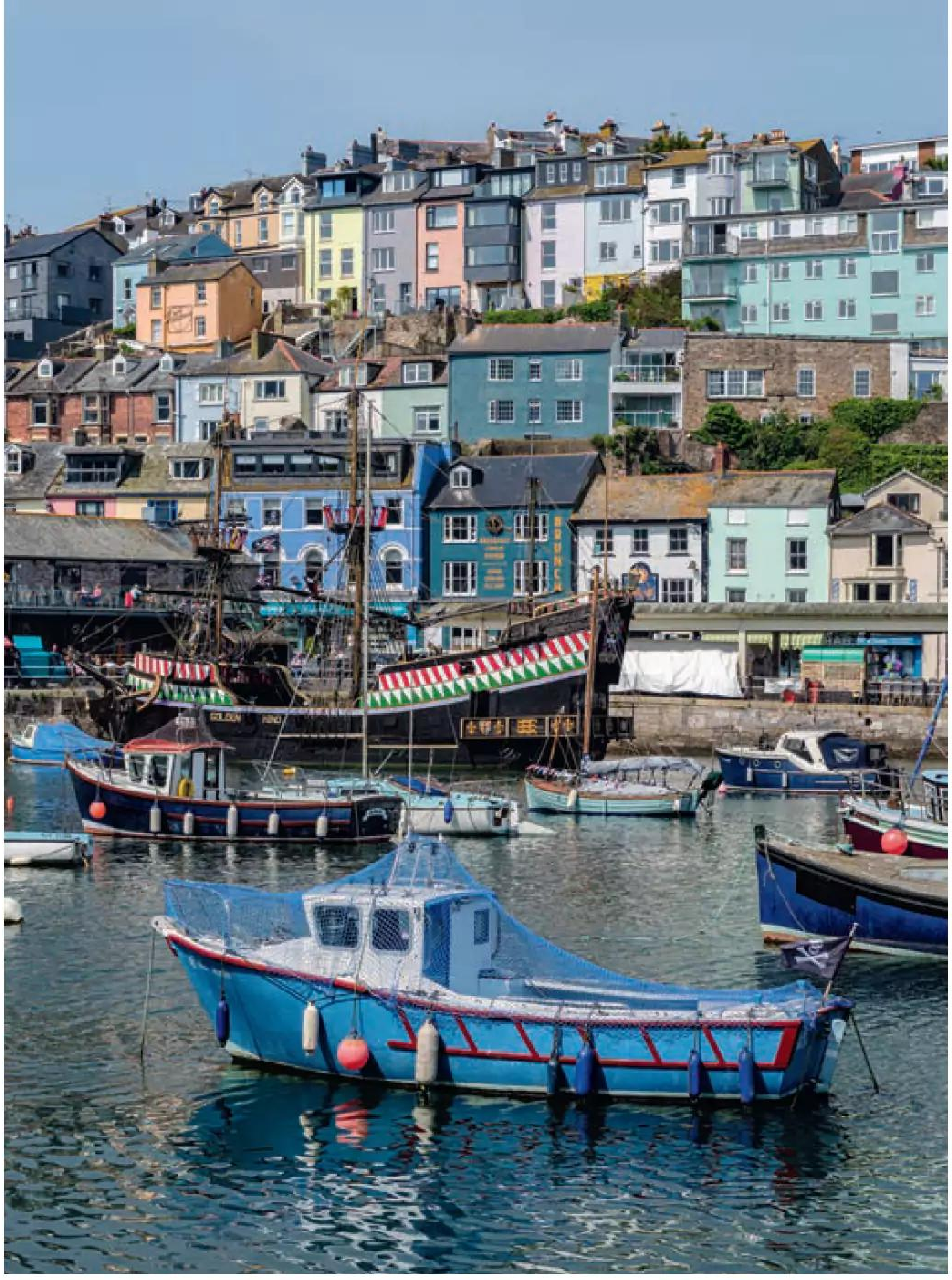
ABOVE RIGHT
One of the lakes at Cockington Country Park

RIGHT
View from the top of the Lady Exmouth Falls, Canonteign Estate

TOP TIPS

● We had the best cream teas ever at The Tramstop Café at Colyton Station. Café open during Seaton Tramway operating times.
T 01297 552717
W tram.co.uk

● Take your time and go around more than once at Babbacombe Model Village to spot details you may not have noticed at first glance. The village is illuminated on some evenings.
W model-village.co.uk



VISITING SOUTH DEVON

- The official tourist board website is packed with inspiration and ideas **W visitsouthdevon.co.uk**
- Seaton Tramway runs special events throughout the year including birdwatching excursions using the tram as a bird hide. Harbour Road, Seaton EX12 2WD **T 01297 20375 W tram.co.uk**
- Visit the South West's highest waterfall at Canonteign Falls and enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the Victorian Fern Garden, woodland and lakes. Christow, near Exeter, Devon EX6 7RH. **T 01647 252434 W canonteignfalls.co.uk**
- Cockington Country Park. **W countryside-trust.org.uk/explore/cockington**
- Bicton Park Botanical Gardens, Bicton East, Budleigh Salterton EX9 7BJ **T 01395 568465 W bictongardens.co.uk**
- Dogs are welcome at Babbacombe Model Village. Hampton Avenue, Babbacombe, Torquay, TQ1 3LA **T 01803 315315 W model-village.co.uk**
- Don't miss the Donkey Sanctuary, near Sidmouth, where hundreds of donkeys and mules, many of them 'rescues', graze in a 'field of dreams'. Free entry, donations welcomed (registered charity). Dogs welcome on leads. **T 01395 578222 W thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk** **OPEN** every day 9am-5pm. Slade House Farm, Weston, Sidmouth EX10 0NU

on a 1960s open-top tram gives us an even better view of two nature reserves, passing Black Hole Marsh with its hides, to Seaton Wetlands Halt. This whole area is an important wintering site for a wide variety of wading birds and the tramway even runs special birdwatching excursions. Our sights are set on the tastiest cream teas ever at The Tramstop café at Colyton Station (1868). It's just as well the tram fee allows us to hop on the various trams as many times as we like because, after scoffing such generous portions, we feel compelled to walk off all the calories by alighting at Colyford and striding back through the wetlands to Seaton to ride other trams.

Quaint Colyton has us under its spell from the off. It's only in St Andrew's Church that we see any other people. Like us, they're admiring the great west window of the nave, one of the largest in any parish church and Renaissance-style monuments dating from 1587; a memorial to the biggest landowners in the area. An intricate stone screen from the sixteenth century was built by a former vicar here, but perhaps the church'sw greatest treasure is the Saxon cross in the south transept.

Although it's Brixham, Paignton and Torquay where we're jarred out of our peaceful reverie, it's Dawlish Warren that, initially, gives us the biggest shock. I'd only heard of it as a nature reserve so it's hard not to think that we've taken a wrong turn when we arrive in a crowded area of seaside kiosks, kiddies' rides and with an enormous Ferris wheel looming over everything. We find a car park and walk through marram grass to the dunes above a vast and busy beach separated by groynes with hazy views across to Exmouth.

It's in far more sedate Dawlish that we encounter the black swans, those 'emblems' of the town that entice visitors to The Brook (aka Dawlish Water) through the attractive park area around it known as The Lawn. Families are picnicking among the floral displays and feeding the swans and many other species of waterfowl. A little further south at Teignmouth, we watch from the prom as surf-lifesavers practice. Teignmouth feels so laid-back, in contrast to its past as a major shipbuilding port which made Navy vessels during WWII.

TOP LEFT The harbour at Brixham with the replica of Sir Francis Drake's *Golden Hind*

ABOVE *Man and Boy'* culpture by Elisabeth Hadley at Brixham Harbour

BELOW Clampit Falls at Canonteign Estate

From our base at Widdicombe Farm we explore Brixham – where children are crabbing off the harbour wall – and Paignton, with its red sand beach and pier packed with kiddies' rides, giant deckchairs and mini golf. Endless 'pings' of arcade games make us yearn to recapture the tranquillity we've mostly been accustomed to on this holiday. Thus we scuttle off to the delightful village of Cockington, where we amble through an arboretum to ornate lakes; the only noise that of birdsong, tinkling water and ducks. There's a blacksmith, jewellers, glass blower and Torbay Gin, among others, in the Stable Yard. The appeal here is in the thatched-roof houses and the village's focal point, The Drum Inn, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens no less. The Church of St George and St Mary is virtually unchanged since 1400, having survived the reformation and civil wars.

We already had a good idea of what to expect from Cockington thanks to it being the inspiration for 'Mockington' at Babbacombe Model Village. The model village's miniature postcard scene, with a white Rolls Royce parked outside the

»

church where a wedding party poses, is just one of many tongue-in-cheek creations here. All of which, when looking down from a viewpoint above, account for that rather befuddling sensation. It takes several trips around this novel attraction to absorb every detail and appreciate the subtle humour, from the Tiny British Cake Off complete with 'Noel', 'Paul' and 'Prue' to a streaker coursing across 'Wombley Stadium'. What really muddles me are the 'sunbathers' on the 'beach'. Looking down on the seaside scene, I think of the movie *Jaws* as the circling (real) fish in the water appear distinctly threatening to the much smaller figures.

At Bicton Gardens it's the subtle scent of the ancient wisteria – Britain's oldest – that greets us. Inside the two-centuries-old Palm House is a kaleidoscope of colours and smells of exotic plants. Beyond the giant redwood in the American Garden – one of several themed gardens – the handkerchief tree sheds its carpet of leaves.

A 25-minute train ride (extra charge) takes us around the lake, a good way to see more of the features of this splendid 64-acre site.

At Canonteign Falls we climb up through ancient woodlands via the original 90 Victorian rock 'steps' to emerge into a lovely fern-lined hanging valley. A slightly drizzly day makes for a moody ambience made even more mysterious by the appearance of 'fairies' dancing and hiding among the thick foliage; they're the work of renowned wire artist, Rachel Ducker.

After exploring narrow paths shrouded by dozens of different varieties of prehistoric-looking ferns, reminding me of New Zealand, we arrive at the top of the 230ft falls themselves and a far-reaching vista of the rolling Devon countryside. We find it hard to drag ourselves away from Canonteign and the harmony of its series of lakes teeming with wildlife and its labyrinth of paved rings which reflects on life's journey, complete with quotes from TS Eliot, Van Gogh, the Bible and Shakespeare.

Evenings at Babbacombe are our favourite, particularly watching the sunset from the clifftop on our walks across Walls Hill Downs. It's at Babbacombe that we exert the most energy of our entire trip, albeit for only a minute or two. Having leisurely strolled down to Oddicombe Beach from alongside the Babbacombe Cliff Railway and along the coastal path to Babbacombe Beach, it's a short, fairly stiff, walk back up to the top.

TOP RIGHT Seaton Tramway

ABOVE RIGHT Fishing boats on the beach at Beer

MIDDLE LEFT Beach huts at Budleigh Salterton

BOTTOM LEFT Widdicombe Farm Touring Park, Paignton

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A paw-some coast

From artwork and amusements to birds, beaches and bomber history, Lincolnshire's coast offers an unexpected blend of culture, wildlife, and fun for two and four-legged companions

Words & photography: Brian Symonds

A pier, a poet, puzzling plaques, poignant letters, seals and sea lavender; we explore a coastline packed with fascination. This is a dog-friendly week in Lincolnshire, based one mile inland from the coast at Sutton on Sea.

From the Humber estuary in the north to the Wash south of Skegness, the coast is generally a broad beach. Near towns – Mablethorpe, Sutton on Sea, Chapel St Leonards and Skegness – dog walking is restricted, but on our campsite there seemed to be even more dogs than normal because owners know how many wonderful miles of sand are available for dogs to run free.

Breeding seals at Donna Nook, north of Saltfleet, and at Gibraltar Point at the southern end, where there are also ground-nesting birds, create other restrictions, but they barely impinge on canine exercise.

Gibraltar Point is a National Nature Reserve. It consists of more than 1,000 acres of sandy and muddy shores, sand dunes, saltmarshes, grassland and lagoons. As the tide drained from the Wash, water also ran out of Wainfleet Creek, leaving boats high and dry on mud.

From a viewpoint we could see Norfolk 14 miles away. The view across the Wash is broken by sandbanks exposed by the receding tide and becomes a place for seals to bask in the sunshine. In a hide by a shallow pond, we watched a black-headed gull bringing fresh nest material to its mate clearly sitting on eggs. ››

MAIN PICTURE
North Sea Observatory and beach huts, Chapel Point

Susie Kearley Alamy

Through our binoculars we also identified shelducks, avocets, coots, egrets and more. Here, and at Saltfleet, sea lavender was creating a purple haze across the saltmarsh.

The Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve is three miles south of Skegness, where we were headed next. We strolled to the promenade where in front of us lay the best golden, firm sand we saw all week but, as we were accompanied by Ben the Sprocker Spaniel, we kept off the beach and made our way onto the pier and sat in sunshine admiring the views.

To our right we glimpsed rides of the funfair and, on the promenade, the essential seaside sunshine vehicle: a Mr Whippy van. To our left, out in the North Sea, lay the turbines of a giant wind farm turning only gently in a light breeze.

Walking into the funfair, a pirate boat swung to and fro, while a big wheel turned slowly with its seats in the form of the gondolas hung below historic balloons. Other folk rode roller coasters and children sat astride ‘elephants’ on the Dumbo carousel. Smaller children could pretend to do what many adults would like to try in real life: drive a fire engine! It was a scene of noise, colour and fun.

The stretch north from Skegness through Ingoldmells is dominated by holiday parks and static caravans before reaching the quieter village community of Chapel St Leonards. Here, there is a small amusement arcade, but most of the shops and the pub are like those found in many villages. That’s all except for one selling the holiday essentials of buckets and spades and windbreaks, and a second selling bags; anything from purses and handbags right up to rucksacks.

We enjoyed coffee at a café on the promenade next to a Punch and Judy cabinet, silent on a quiet midweek morning. From here it is a 15-minute walk along the promenade to the North Sea Observatory at Chapel Point, though we took Ben across the dunes for a run on the beach and a slower walk on soft sand.

There are three blocks of beach huts along the promenade, finishing by a coastguard observatory with a hut painted bright blue and yellow and named “Oozutizit”.

Later in the week, I smiled at names on huts at Sutton on Sea: ‘Seas the Day’ and hut number 40 where the owners had added ‘Winks’. Sea Breeze and Life’s a Beach are perhaps to be expected, but on the whole the quality of the beach hut stock was somewhat dilapidated.

Our first trip inland was on a Tuesday, market day in the small town of Alford. The market, too, was small but had stallholders selling ther usual cakes, plants and vegetables. We bought Boston new potatoes for our dinner; around the county we would see more signs of farm shops announcing the availability of Bostons.

A novelty at this market was to see buyers bidding in a rather informal auction of tools and other

DUMBO
CIRCUS
WALTZER

ESCAPE GAME

TOP
Bric-a-brac at Alford market

ABOVE RIGHT
Carousel and big wheel, Skegness funfair

RIGHT
Skegness Pier

- **visitlincolnshire.com** is a good place to start. Its destinations section includes pieces on the wolds and the coast as well as pages on Alford, Louth, Mablethorpe, Skegness and Sutton on Sea
- **lincsaviation.co.uk** is the source for the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre

bric-a-brac. If I retain one memory from Alford it might be the fish and chip shop in Church Street. In a delightful play on words, the proprietors were operating the Jolly Friar.

Moving inland and northwest from Sutton on Sea, the largest nearby town is Louth, the capital of the Lincolnshire Wolds. We were there on a Wednesday, one of its three market days. This was a large and busy market with fabric and clothing stalls adding to the offering.

We followed a Treasure Trail which produced several interesting glimpses into its history, going by the plaques around the town. Firstly, in 1536, the time of Henry VIII and religious changes including the dissolution of the monasteries, the vicar of St James led the Lincolnshire Rising. Subsequently arrested, he was hanged at Tyburn in London.

Of more favourable repute, the poet, Alfred Lord Tennyson, was schooled at the grammar school here, where he wrote a line still true today, “An old wall covered with wild weeds opposite the school windows”.

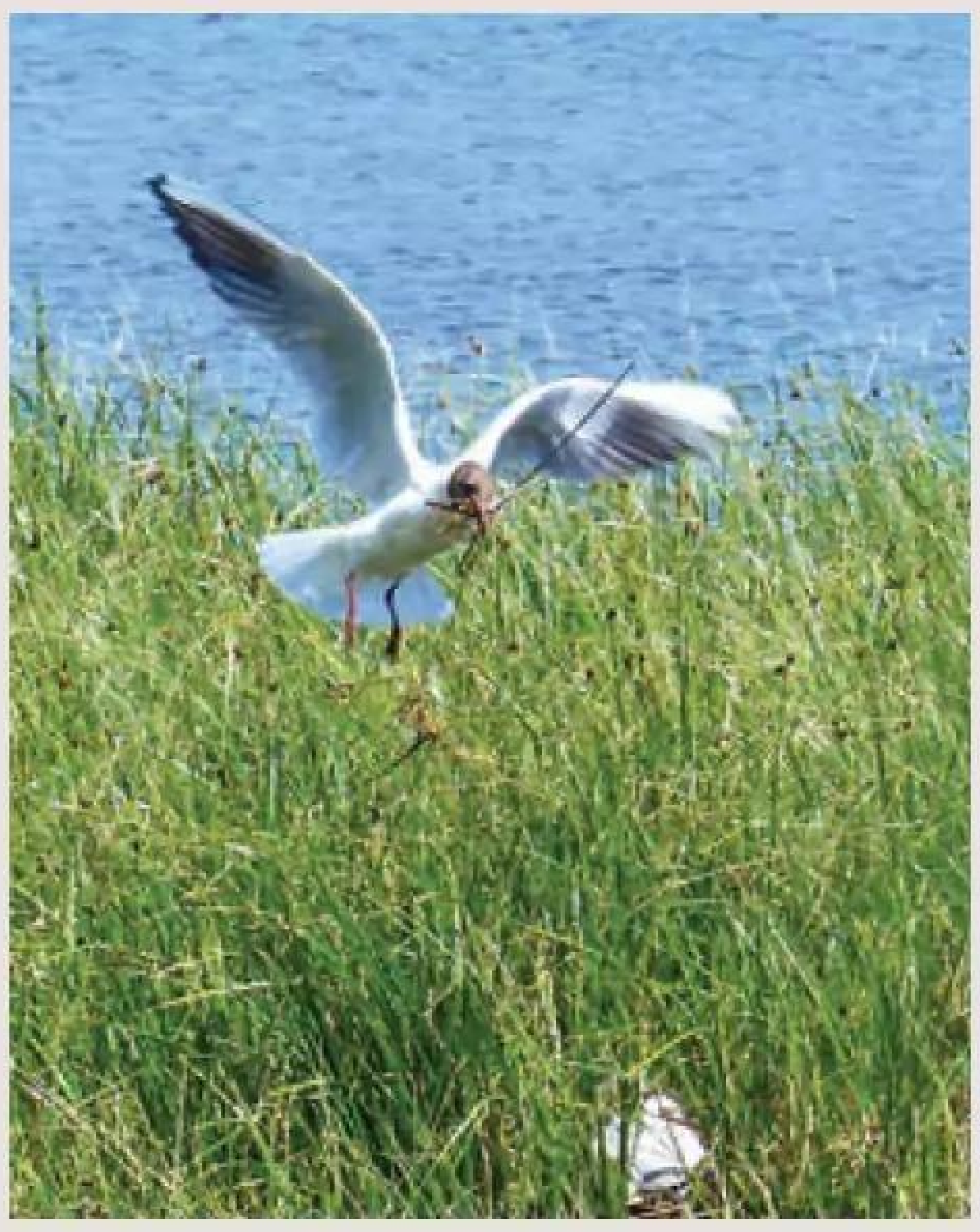
Other items on walls appeared to be plaques – blue background, white lettering – but also appeared to be slightly gibberish. Luckily, we were able to ask a local person when we stood by the first. She explained there are several around the town and they are pieces of artwork.

Here are the texts from two: “... Lost in Louth? Hope you discovered a place you were not looking for...” and “... go through straight. Then slight left, straight, and then opposite side. Just a little bit of right-hand...” I will call them intriguing gibberish. Another plaque, easily missed on the wall beside a small pizza café, marks a point that Louth shares with London: the Greenwich meridian line passes through.

Louth is in the rolling countryside of the wolds. Heading inland and southwest from our campsite, the land of Lincolnshire is predominantly flat. It remains a key area for RAF bases, but there were even more during World War II, of course.

PARKING

To visit Alford, the biggest car park is South Market Place; other car parks are Market Place long stay (not available on market days – Tuesday and Friday) and Co-op car park short stay. Parking is free in all of these.
alford.info/info/car-parks-in-alford
At Gibraltar Point birdwatching hides are more readily accessed from the North Car Park



TOP RIGHT Black-headed gull with nesting material, Gibraltar Point

BELOW High and dry, Wainfleet Creek, Gibraltar Point

We visited the National Trust property at Gunby Hall, a substantial house that was home to the Massingberd family; it was built around 1700. It is surrounded by 1,500 acres of farmland.

In 1943, Archie and Diana Montgomery-Massingberd resided here. They saw strangers on their land, challenged them and were told the Air Ministry was looking into an extension of the runway at RAF Spilsby to allow flights by

»

bombers and Gunby Hall would have to be demolished.

Archie, himself a Field Marshal, petitioned the king and others and won the day; the runway was realigned and the estate lost only a few trees. Diana, the Massingberd heiress in the family, was nevertheless concerned for the future of Gunby Hall and organised its transfer to the National Trust. Under the arrangement, she was allowed to live in the hall until her death.

The National Trust continues to maintain the splendid walled garden that lies behind the house. Apart from wonderful colourful borders, carrots, celery, chard and potatoes were being grown, and trees in their orchard suggested there will be a good apple crop in due course.

There is a second airfield a little further beyond Spilsby. RAF East Kirkby was a base for Lancaster bombers from 1943 to 1945 and is now maintained privately as the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, a museum paying homage to Bomber Command, the Lancaster and squadrons 57 and 630 which flew the bomber.

Lancaster registration NX611, *Just Jane,* is the museum's prime exhibit. During summer months it is taxied from its hangar and available for visitors to pay a premium to climb into the cockpit for special souvenir photographs. The fee go towards the cost of restoring the aircraft back into flying condition.

There are some 20 buildings around the fringe of the airfield, ranging from the control room to the Nissen huts that were the billets and briefing rooms for the aircrew. In an exhibition about the Home Guard there are wartime leaflets explaining how to make potato soup and how to grow carrots. There are posters warning that careless talk costs lives and walls have ears. In the hangar you can read the log books from the pilots showing which missions they flew on what date and at what time.

Losses from RAF East Kirkby were substantial – more than 100 aircraft, more than 800 crew.

In a billet there are two poignant letters. One is from a pilot to his mother and father hoping they will never have to read it and asking that they contact his girlfriend if it should come to pass, and the second is from his friend to the parents, sadly enclosing the first and eulogising his lost comrade.

We walked on the promenades and beaches at Sutto on Sea and Mablethorpe. The former is fairly quiet.

We spoke to a gentleman fishing from the beach, getting set up atop a slope on the beach for the incoming tide which would create water of adequate depth to bring fish within range.

Mablethorpe is more brash, home to a crazy golf course built on a pirate theme and with downmarket amusement arcades the moment you leave the promenade and step onto the main street. In its window display, a shop was showing T-shirts with generally coarse messages.

Compared with many parts of the country, this coast is a little strange in that there are no small harbours with fishing boats, the more industrial ones, of course, being in the Humber at Grimsby. There is a narrow inlet at Saltfleet Haven and then nothing until Wainfleet Creek at the southern end, around 30 miles away.

There is simply a grand stretch of sand, flat and stretching out a long way at low tide at Saltfleet, still broad but sloping more steadily at the other points all the way south to Skegness.

I had never been to Lincolnshire before. I am delighted I had included it on our wish list, for we had an enjoyable week of history, beaches, wildlife and fun. ■

WE STAYED AT

SUTTON-ON-SEA CARAVAN AND MOTORHOME CLUB SITE
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W camc.com
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ALTERNATIVES
The Camping and Caravanning Club has a site at Mablethorpe. Long Acres is the closest Premier Park, located halfway between Boston and Gibraltar Point

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TOP RIGHT
Lancaster bomber
Just Jane

ABOVE
Catnip in the border at Gunby Hall walled garden

BOTTOM LEFT
Gunby Hall

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Walking the South Downs Way

Words & photography: Tim Griffiths

From Eastbourne to Arundel, via woods, chalk downs, pretty villages, cliff views, the home of the novelist, Virginia Woolf, and the largest dry valley in the UK

Living close to Winchester, we decide it's high time we walked the South Downs Way from Eastbourne to Winchester.

Armed with the invaluable A-Z walking map and the Trailblazer guide, the long walk started in Eastbourne. The guidebooks assume you will walk from west to east, so we quickly get used to reading the guide backwards – not quite literally, of course!

Taking the inland route, we soon leave the bustle of Eastbourne behind, climbing steeply through woods and up onto the chalk downs. This part of the walk is the only one where the signage leaves us debating the right path and we are glad of our map, but we are soon over the top of the downs.

The pretty village of Jevington stays hidden until we are nearly in it. Next to the delightful church, we encounter our first centre-pivoted gate; a turnstile. We learn that these are tapsel gates, unique to Sussex. They prevent animals from entering. »

MAIN
Above Eastbourne

BOTTOM LEFT
Centre pivot Tapsel gate at Jevington

The Seven Sisters chalk cliffs are between 65 and 100 million years old

After a sunny lunch break, we follow the South Downs acorn signs over open downs to Alfriston. This delightful, picturesque village is home to the National Trust's first saved building, the Clergy House. next to the church. It was bought as a restoration project in 1896 by the newly formed National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty.

Our next walk started at Birling Gap; it's the coastal route of the South Downs Way. By midday, the car park is heaving!

Walking up towards Beachy Head, we pass close to the Belle Tout Lighthouse. This wonderfully renovated structure is now an upmarket bed and breakfast place with unparalleled views. It was put on rails and moved back 17m from the edge of the cliff in 1999 as it was about to drop off.

TOP
Above Birling Gap towards Seven Sisters

ABOVE
Clergy House, Alfriston

BELOW RIGHT
Crossing the prime meridian!

Our path is not too steep and we get great views across the Seven Sisters to the west and Beachy Head to the east. Pausing at the evocative RAF Bomber Command Memorial set in the clifftop, we push on until the Eastbourne end is in sight before lunch. Then it's over the Seven Sisters to Brass Point with views over the Cuckmere River and Seaford Head.

The following day we park just beyond the lovely Saxon church at Southease with its round tower and early painted wall murals. We walk past the beautifully maintained YHA South Downs hostel, crossing railway, river and the busy A26 before climbing up to Firle Beacon and on towards Alfriston.

Returning to Southease, we visit Monk's House, a National Trust property. This unpretentious, but very pretty, weather-boarded cottage was the home of the novelist, Virginia Woolf. It's a must for literary buffs and the garden is quite delightful; everything an English country garden should be!

Our next leg, from Southease, goes across fields and tracks leading inexorably to the downs, with views towards Brighton and the A27.

Early the next day, we drive up to the National Trust car park

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- *South Downs Way A-Z For Walkers* ISBN 9781782571674 costs £8.95. This is a compendium of all required 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey maps for the entire walk, The A-Z map marks a number of car parks.
- *South Downs Way* by Manthorpe and McCrohan (ISBN 9781905864935), £11.99. This wonderfully detailed book gives valuable additional information

South Downs Way
Western Hemisphere
South Downs Way
Eastern Hemisphere

at Ditchling Beacon and walk out in both directions. It's a really well-tended path and much used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Retracing our footsteps before lunch, we continue on to the Clayton Windmills, also known as the Jack and Jill windmills, with a real *Grand Designs* house in front. The far-reaching views across to the Devil's Dyke to the west make this a great walk.

Then from Pyecombe, we walk up past the delightful Shepherd Church. There's another tapsel gate here; this time with a shepherd's crook handle.

Inside the church, there's a fascinating and ancient lead font with the remnant of whitewash on it. Legend has it that it was whitewashed during the civil war so that it looked like stone, thus preventing it from being melted down for bullets.

The church kitchen and toilets are left open for walkers, with the invitation to use it facilities to make a hot drink. There's a card reader by the church door to encourage donations.

Walking up past the golf club to the Jack and Jill windmills, we complete that part of the route, finding that the views are very different going each way. After all, we are doing it for enjoyment rather than as an expeditionary challenge.

Returning, we cross the A23 and climb the hill, with views across Brighton towards a huge wind farm out to sea. I learn that a single revolution of one of the monster turbines produces enough electricity to power a house for a day.

Dropping steeply to Saddlescombe, we visit the National Trust farm with its welcome café. The path continues up Summer Down and along the side of the Devil's Dyke, one of the highlights of the whole walk. This huge dry valley is the largest in the UK and is impressive. There's a large pay and display car park at the summit.

Walking back down, we spot a kestrel swooping and making off with a small rodent.

ABOVE
Saxon Southease church

TOP RIGHT
Jack and Jill windmills

TOP
Devil's Dyke

BELOW
Monk's House (Virginia Woolf's house)

Our scenic drive to Upper Beeding passes through the villages of Poynings and Fulking on minor roads and we park conveniently just off the road close to the tidal River Adur. The path takes us up Beeding Hill and past the YHA hostel at Truleigh Hill.

One feature of the walk is the cheery greetings and conversations that we have with fellow walkers. There are good views to north and south, with the coast never being far away.

»

The outline of Lancing College's huge chapel appears on the skyline and we reach the Devil's Dyke pub in time for a lunch break.

In the area of Upper Beeding, we explore the charming village of Bramber with its ruined castle, then walk westerly, crossing a footbridge over the river and passing the village of Botolphs.

Once a thriving port, Botolphs is now a tiny hamlet. As Saint Botolph is the patron saint of wayfarers, it seems highly appropriate that it is a staging post on our walk.

Leaving the broad valley, we go up and the smell soon tells us that we are passing through an enormous pig farm sprawling over the top of the hill. There's a warning sign, 'Beware free ranging pigs – keep to the path'.

This part of the walk isn't our favourite, though it's pleasant enough, especially as we approach Chanctonbury Hill. Here, there's a wooded copse on the summit and it's reputed to be haunted. Not at all ghoulish in the middle of the day, it might feel rather different at night! We continue on, down and across the A24 at Washington and up to Chantry Post.

Leaving the South Downs Way, we drop down the steep and narrow road towards Storrington, passing some rather gorgeous houses as we do so.

We drive across to Amberley for our final leg of this part of our walk, with this being approximately a halfway point in the 100-mile walk. Whilst just off the path, our guidebook tells us that Amberley is really worth exploring; we park on its outskirts for a morning walk back up to Chantry Post.

It's a gloriously hot day, so we are pleased that we've decided on a shorter walk. Up and over the tumuli at Highdown, we have great views over the River Arun at Amberley and spot Arundel Castle silhouetted on the skyline.

Returning to Amberley, we are enchanted by beautiful cottage after beautiful cottage, especially on the approach to the church and castle. There is a wedding taking place in the castle, which stops us visiting, though we are able to view its imposing walls from the churchyard and from the footpath which connects the castle to the River Arun.

The river is quite a focus at Houghton Bridge, just below Amberley, where there is a museum and station (with parking at both). We spot many on the river using their own small craft or ones hired at the bridge.

We decide we've done sufficient walking for now so leave the five-mile riverside walk to Arundel and drive there.

Our legs tell us they have had enough for the time being and it seems to us that this is a very good spot to end our South Downs walks, with the rest of the route (Amberley to Winchester) awaiting us at a future date.

TOP LEFT
Amberley Castle

TOP RIGHT
One of Amberley's many cottages

ABOVE RIGHT
View from Arundel

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Grantham

A historic town in the stunning Vale of Belvoir

Grantham, a historic market town in Lincolnshire, offers visitors a blend of heritage, countryside charm and cultural attractions. Sir Isaac Newton was educated at Grantham, and the area celebrates his legacy at nearby Woolsthorpe Manor (owned by the National Trust), where he first discovered gravity. It's about eight miles from Grantham.

The town boasts impressive architecture, including the spire of St Wulfram's Church, one of the tallest in England.

For those who love walking, the Grantham Canal offers a peaceful retreat with scenic routes through picturesque countryside. Once a busy industrial waterway, the canal is now a haven for wildlife.

Just a short drive from the town, the magnificent Belvoir Castle overlooks the Vale of Belvoir. This stately home, with its grand interiors, gardens, and rich history, regularly hosts events, tours, and afternoon teas.

Whether you're interested in scientific heritage, enjoying tranquil nature or exploring royal history, the Grantham area offers a rich and varied experience.

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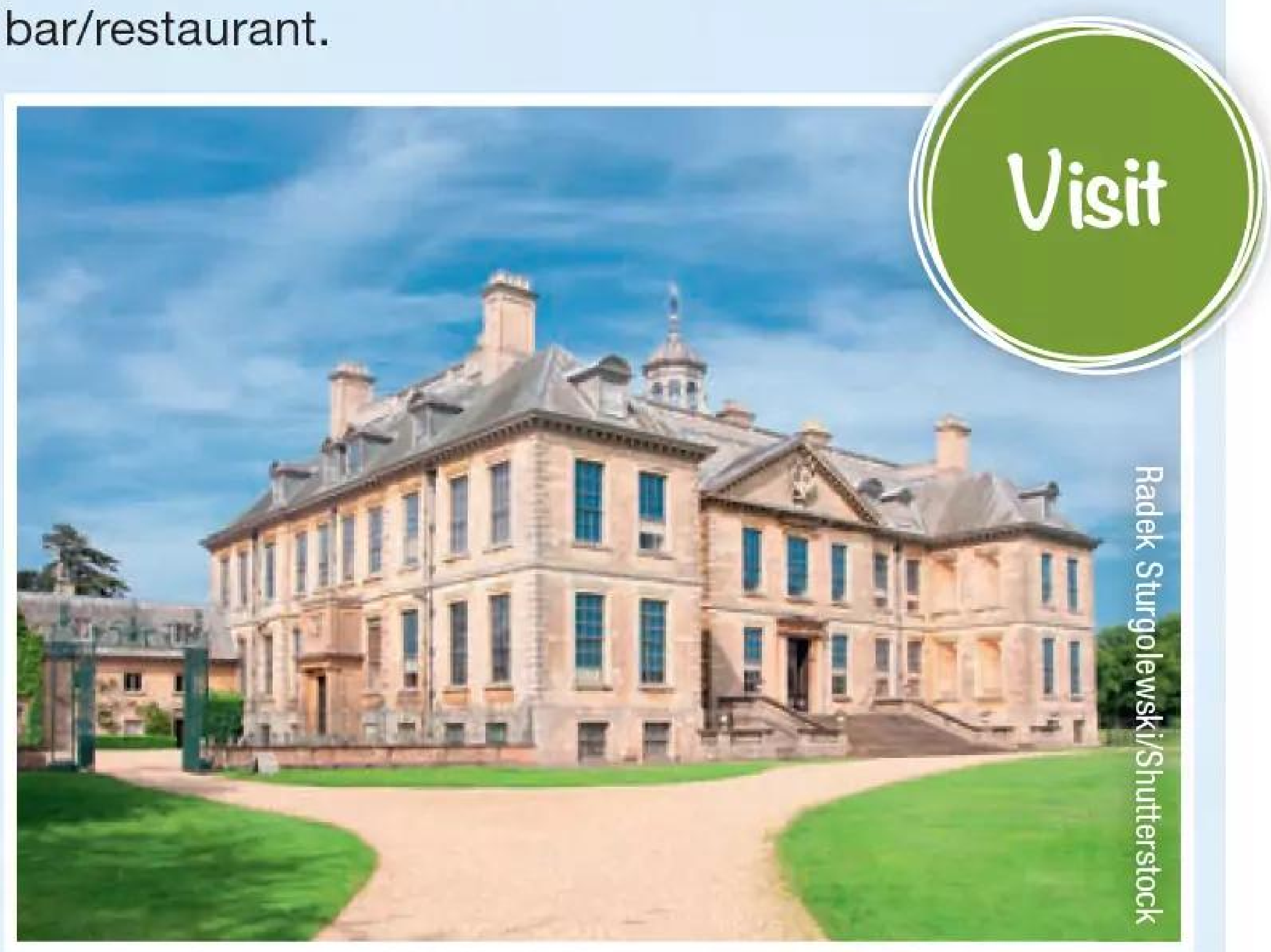
Stay

Low Farm Park

▲ Low Farm Park
Set in the grounds of an eighteenth century farmhouse, and open all year, this campsite is a secluded and peaceful retreat. It's within easy reach of Stamford, Grantham and Lincoln. Situated in the picturesque village of Folkingham, just a short walk from a pub and shop. It has hardstandings and a bar/restaurant.

Visit



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▲ Belton House & Estate
Consisting of a mansion house and formal gardens, plus a deer park, there's plenty at Belton for a grand day out. The house showcases art, silver and porcelain collections, and the gardens have the National Trust's largest outdoor adventure playground.
W **nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/nottinghamshire-lincolnshire/belton-estate**

Explore

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▲ Grantham Canal
Enjoy the countryside from the towpath of the Grantham Canal, which is also a valuable wetland habitat. You can take a short walk, or a Grantham Canal Society boat trip at the Woolsthorpe section.
W **canalrivertrust.org.uk/canals-and-rivers/grantham-canal**

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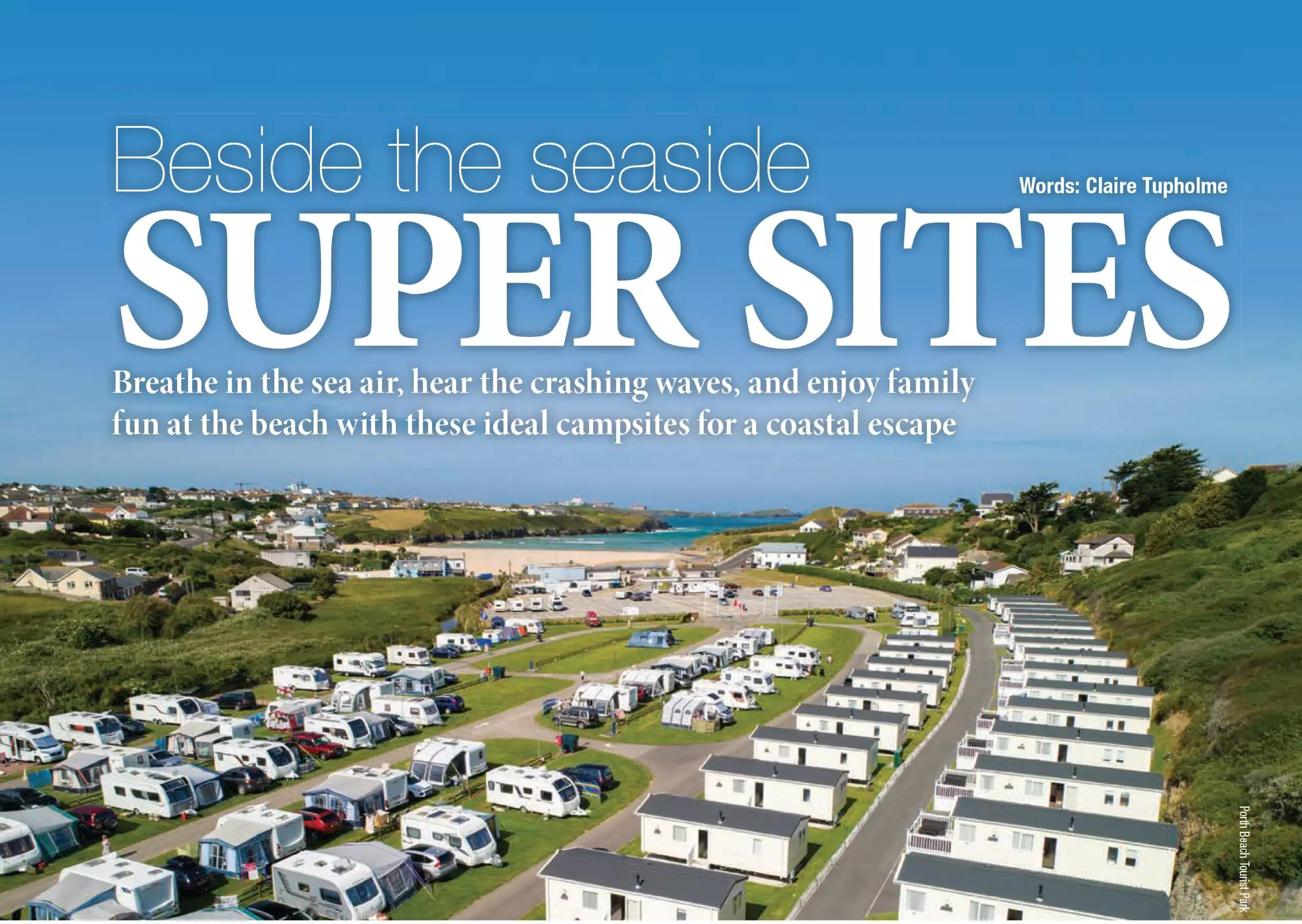
SCAN ME

Beside the seaside
SUPER SITES

Words: Claire Tupholme

Breathe in the sea air, hear the crashing waves, and enjoy family fun at the beach with these ideal campsites for a coastal escape



Porth Beach Tourist Park

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T 01637 876531 W porthbeach.co.uk OPEN 22 March – 31 October

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Located in a tranquil valley, just a few yards from the golden sands of Porth Beach, this site gives you easy access to all the action of Newquay but in a quieter location away from the main resort. Central Newquay is less than a two-mile walk away; some of the route is along the South West Coast Path. The surf capital's famous beach, Fistral, is a little further away, at just under three miles.

The small stream on one side of the site is a great place to look for wildlife and adds to the scenic setting.

Pitches are on grass or hardstanding with the option of electric hook-up. Premium pitches alongside the riverbank are fully serviced. Porth Beach Tourist Park's facilities comprise toilets and showers, accessible facilities and a launderette.

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Set on the St Agnes Heritage Coast, a short distance from the South West Coast Path, Chapel Porth Beach and the tin mine ruins of Wheal Coates, this is a stunning and convenient place to stay. You can easily access the coastal path from the site and walk as far as you please, or head down to one of the nearby sandy beaches.

The campsite is set on a working farm with grass pitches in six small landscaped paddocks, with electric hook-up available. Some pitches have spectacular coastal views and others are sheltered by trees. Facilities are located in converted barns and include toilets and showers, a family shower room, laundry room and a dishwashing area. There is also a small shop and dog exercise field. Kids will love the play area on site – and the coastal view from here is something else, too.

»

TRWYN YR WYLFA CARAVAN & CAMPING SITE, CONWY

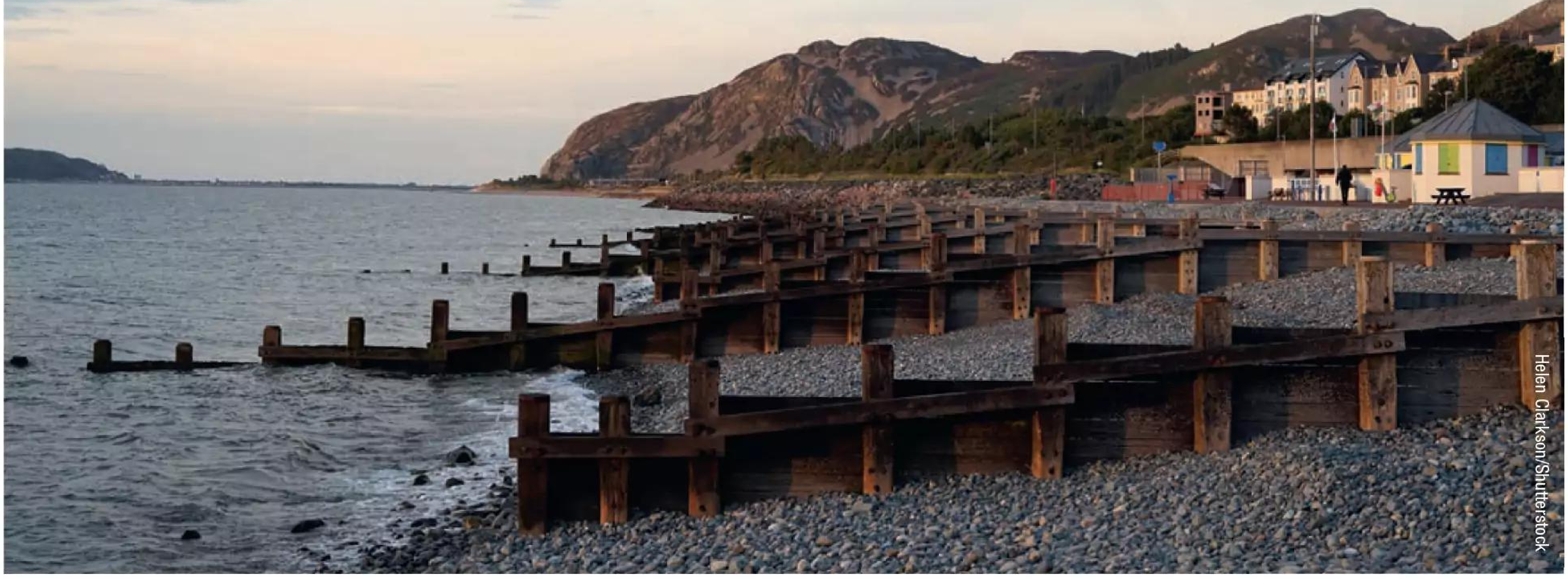
Penmaenmawr, Conwy LL34 6YF T 01492 650672 W coastalview-camping-conwy-northwales.co.uk OPEN 20 March – 13 October

Set on the northern edge of Snowdonia National Park, Trwyn yr Wylfa (meaning ‘watching point’ in Welsh) boasts sweeping views over the coastline and mountains. Just a 10-minute drive from the spectacular walled town of Conwy, the gently sloping site offers a scenic retreat, with direct access to coastal and countryside walks. The seafront and promenade at Penmaenmawr are just half a mile away; perfect for a seaside stroll.

Within walking distance, you’ll find a variety of pubs, shops, and restaurants, along with a train station that makes it easy to explore the surrounding area. The town of Conwy is home to a striking medieval castle that stands watch over the River Conwy.

Facilities at Trwyn yr Wylfa include hardstanding pitches with electric hook-ups, a laundry room, toilets and showers, accessible washrooms and a secure dog walking area. In the local area, you’ll also find a golf course, a sailing club, and a trout fishery.

Gail Johnson/Shutterstock



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CROWS NEST CARAVAN PARK, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Gristhorpe, Filey, North Yorkshire YO14 9PS T 01723 582206
W crowsnestcaravanpark.co.uk
OPEN 1 March – 31 October

Looking for a campsite near a dog-friendly beach? Head to Crows Nest Caravan Park on the Yorkshire coast, tucked between Filey and Scarborough. It’s perched on a clifftop just one and a half miles from Cayton Bay, where dogs are welcome all year round. You can stroll down via the Cleveland Way from the bottom of the site, or you can drive – and park right by the beach.

The site has a mix of hardstanding and luxury super pitches, plus great facilities including individual wet rooms, family bathrooms, a bar, an indoor pool and a shop. It’s a top spot for dog owners, too, as there is a secure, off-lead exercise area, and the lounge bar’s conservatory is dog-friendly so they don’t miss out on the fun.

Want to explore more? Hunmanby Gap and Reighton Sands are a short drive away and both welcome dogs, making Crows Nest a great base for seaside adventures with your four-legged mate.

Michael Brian Shannon/Shutterstock

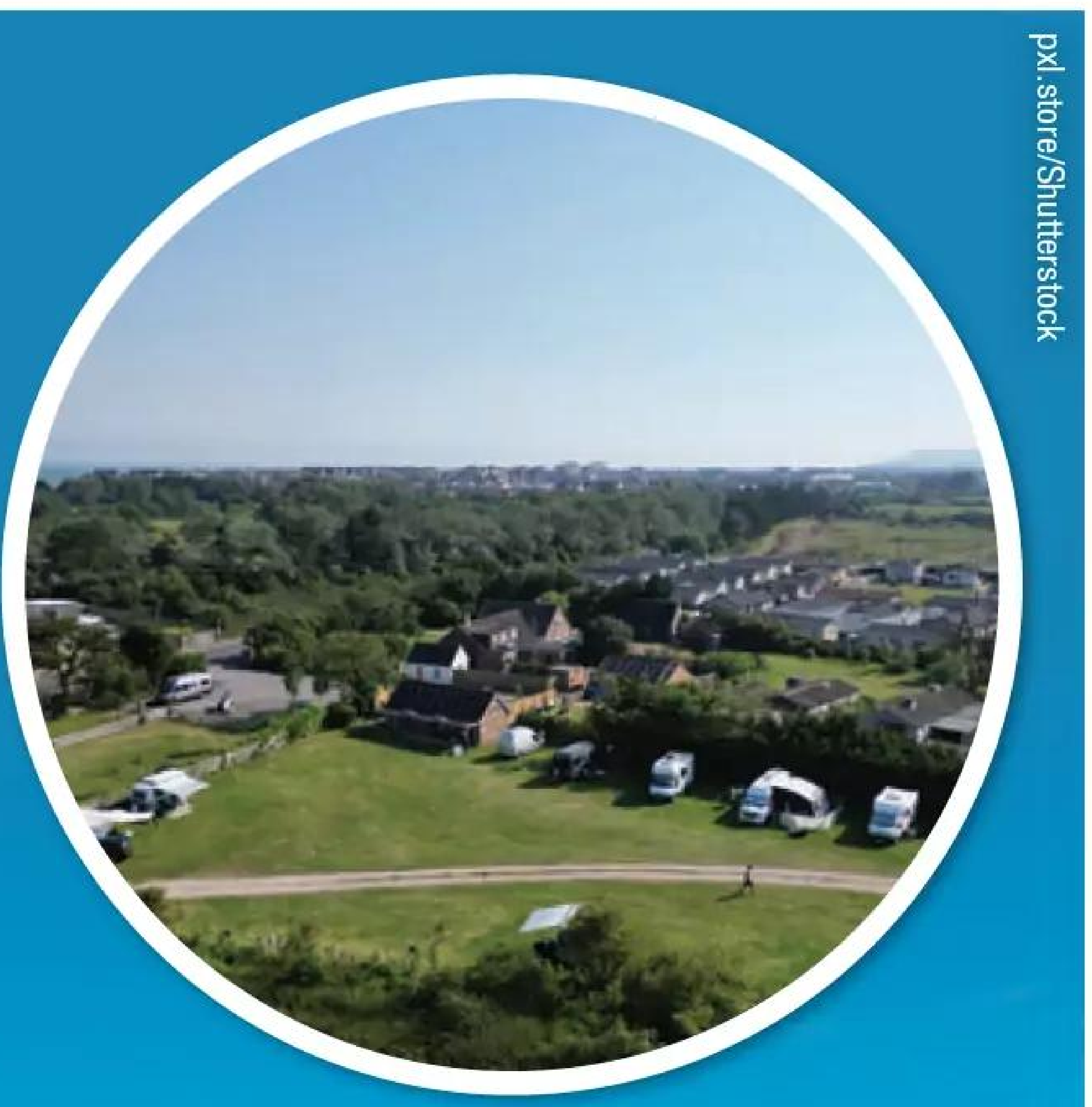
Crows Nest Caravan Park

CANNON CAMPING & CARAVAN PARK, EAST SUSSEX

Eastbourne Road, Pevensey Bay, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN24 6DT
T 07899 651612 W cannoncamping.co.uk OPEN 11 April – 28 September

Cannon Camping is super easy to get to, just off the A259 and only three miles from Eastbourne. The site is surrounded by hedges and open fields, and there's a nine-hole golf course just across the road. Pevensey Bay is about a 20-minute walk away and has plenty of beach to explore, along with a few shops and cafés. Head a mile in the other direction and you'll reach the stylish Sovereign Harbour marina, with its four linked harbours, waterfront shops, and places to eat.

You can choose between electric or non-electric grass pitches, and the site has showers, toilets, a washing-up area and a small shop. There are a couple of pubs within walking distance. A cycle path takes you all the way to Sovereign Harbour and Eastbourne. And for a bit of local history, a public footpath from the site leads along the river straight to Pevensey Castle.



pxl.store/Shutterstock

WOODHILL PARK, NORFOLK

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Cromer Road, East Runton, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9PX
T 01263 512242 W woodhill-park.com
OPEN 1 March – 30 November

Occupying a stunning clifftop location, with the sound of the sea to wake to, Woodhill Park sits on the Norfolk coast, between Sheringham and Cromer. Both coastal towns have plenty of shops and places to eat, but Cromer's the bigger one – with a pier and some classic amusements, too.

A short stroll along the clifftop path from the site leads to the beach, and you can follow the Norfolk Coast Path into Sheringham – it's about a two-mile walk.

Pitch wise, there's plenty of choice – you can opt for hardstanding or grass. There are extra-large fully serviced pitches, and simpler grass pitches with just electric hook-ups.

The site has all the usual facilities: toilets, showers, family washrooms, a launderette and a shop, plus a lovely wildflower meadow. It's worth noting, at the time of writing, the play area and recreation field are currently unavailable.

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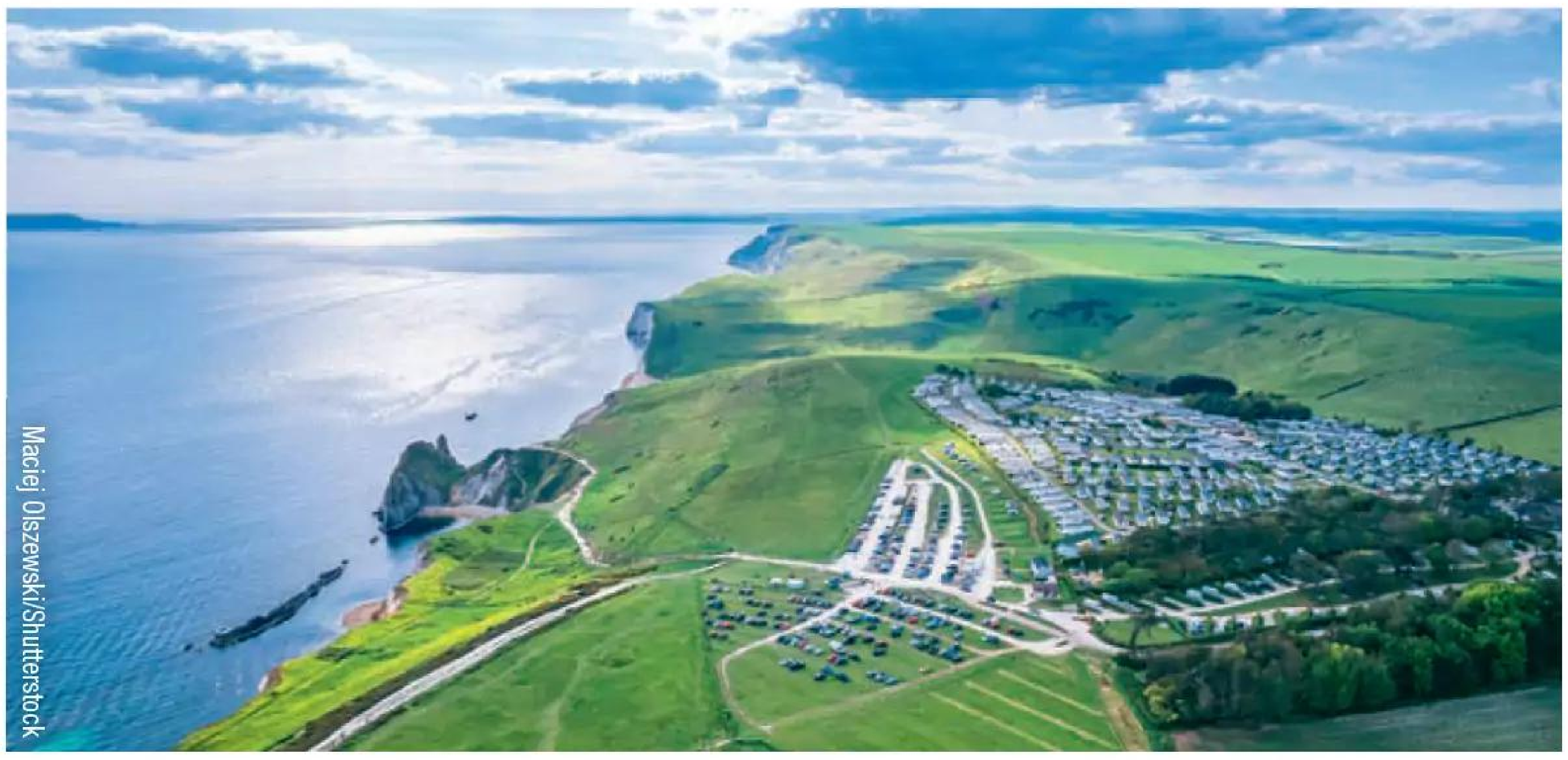
Maciej Olszewski/Shutterstock

DURDLE DOOR HOLIDAY PARK, DORSET

West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5PU
T 01929 400200 W durdledoor.co.uk
OPEN 1 March – 2 January

When you think of Dorset, a few iconic sights probably come to mind, like the stunning limestone arch of Durdle Door and the crystal-clear waters of Lulworth Cove. If you're looking for a spot that gives you easy access to both, Durdle Door Holiday Park is hard to beat.

Set within the family-run Lulworth Estate, the site sits right beside the South West Coast Path, making it super easy to head out on foot and explore the dramatic Jurassic Coast. The village of West Lulworth is just a 30-minute walk away, or you can drive and use the public car park. Once there, you'll find plenty of places to eat and drink.

Back at the site, touring pitches are gravel hardstandings with electric hook-up and water, all nicely tucked between hedges for a bit of privacy. Facilities include toilets and showers, a dishwashing area, a shop, plus a bar and restaurant for those nights when you don't feel like cooking.

PENTEWAN SANDS, CORNWALL

PREMIER PARK 2025
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Pentewan, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6BT
T 01726 843485 W pentewan.co.uk
OPEN March – November

As the site name may suggest, Pentewan Sands is set right on the beach, with some pitches only a few steps from the sand. These get snapped up quickly, though, so make sure you book early.

Pentewan has everything you could need, including two indoor pools, tennis courts, water sports available at the beach, cycle hire and an amusement arcade. A great site for families, mealtimes are covered thanks to a choice of restaurants, including a beachside bar, plus a fish and chip takeaway and a supermarket.

A range of pitches is available, including those with electric hook-up, and even some with electric vehicle charging points on the pitch. Facilities comprise toilets and showers, private bathrooms and shower rooms, plus accessible bathrooms, a laundry and a dishwashing area.

Locally there are lots of attractions, including the famous Lost Garden of Heligan and the Eden Project.

Pentewan Sands

Pentewan Sands

HARBOUR LIGHTS CAMPSITE & HOLIDAY PARK, CUMBRIA

Moor Moss Lane, Haverigg, Millom,
Cumbria LA18 4FE T 01229 777300
W harbourlightscampsite.co.uk
OPEN All year

Just 100 yards from Harbour Lights Campsite and you'll be at the sea – it's that close! Tucked away on the southwest edge of the Lake District, this spot is perfect for exploring the National Park while being right next to the dog-friendly sands of Haverigg Beach. The village of Haverigg is about a 10-minute walk away, with a few pubs and places to eat, including the must-have fish and chip shop, of course. Just a mile away is an RSPB nature reserve, perfect for a bit of peaceful birdwatching. And for when you fancy a day trip, Coniston, one of the many lovely Lake District towns, is only a 30-minute drive away.

At the campsite, there are hardstanding pitches with electric hook-ups. The facilities include nine private shower rooms, with one that's fully accessible.

Plus, there's an on-site ice cream and coffee shop serving up home-made goodies – perfect for a treat after a day out exploring.

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RamblingTog/stock.adobe.com

Josh Powell/Shutterstock

St Monans Holiday Park

James McDowall/Shutterstock

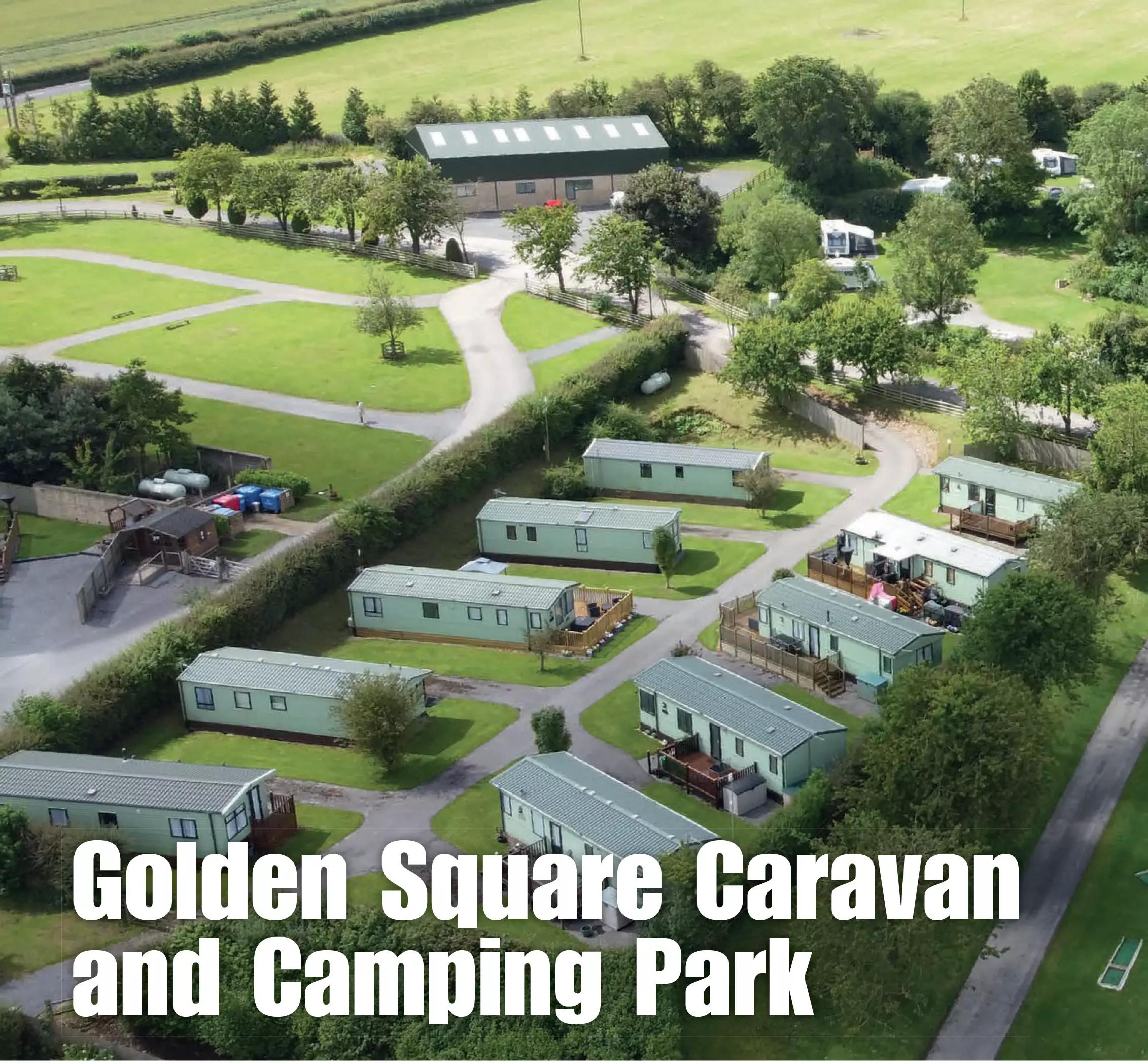
David McElroy/Shutterstock

ST MONANS HOLIDAY PARK, FIFE

St Monans, Fife KY10 2DN
T 01333 730778 W abbeyford.com
OPEN 1 March – 30 October

This family-friendly site sits just outside the charming fishing village of St Monans, with lovely views over the Fife Coastal Path. From here, you can wander down to the harbour or follow the scenic path to the ruins of Newark Castle – perfect for a gentle stroll with a bit of history along the way. Just three miles along the coast is Anstruther, a lively seaside town where you can hop on a boat trip out to the Isle of May, a nature reserve that's teeming with wildlife.

The small touring area is near the entrance of the holiday park, which also offers holiday homes for rent. Pitches are gravel-based and have electric hook-ups. On the site, you'll find everything you need – toilets and showers, a launderette and a play area. There's also a well-stocked shop nearby, along with some great spots to eat and drink. If you fancy a change of scene, you're welcome to use the bar, restaurant and café at the park's sister site, Elie Holiday Park, just a 10-minute drive away.



Golden Square Caravan and Camping Park

Golden Square is a five-star rated holiday park located in the stunning North York Moors National Park, offering a peaceful and family-friendly getaway. The park's unique layout across three levels provides spacious and private pitches, with trees and hedges strategically placed to enhance privacy. Guests can enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding farmland, forests and moorlands.

Families will love the variety of activities, including two outdoor play areas, an indoor play space, crazy golf and a football field, ensuring children have plenty to do.

The park is an ideal base for exploring nearby scenic walking trails and local attractions, making it perfect for a relaxing break in nature.

Meet Jane Butler, daughter of the founders, Don and Barbara Armstrong…

How long have you been running your campsite?
As it is a family-run park, and my parents developed the park, I have always worked there, helping out. I took over the main running of the park six years ago and my son is now involved, so it continues to be a family affair.

Tell us a little about your site and how it first began
My parents, Don and Barbara Armstrong, developed the park approximately 40 years ago out of a piece of disused land on their farm. Years before, it had been a quarry, which was just overgrown with trees and bushes. This is why we have very good drainage, but you do need rock pegs if setting up an awning, due to the rocks beneath the surface.

What did you do before becoming the owners of this site?
When growing up I helped out on the farm, then the caravan park, then I was a baker at a local shop in Helmsley. Once I had children, I went back to the caravan park and I was able to sometimes take my children with me. From a young age they learnt how to clean toilets!

What made you want to own and run a campsite?
I never really knew what I wanted to do in life and I just progressed into it naturally.

A family-run holiday site with a unique layout and spectacular scenic views in North Yorkshire

What do you like most about being a campsite owner/manager?
Meeting and talking to people.

What are the challenges?
Keeping and running the park at its five-star rating is the biggest challenge, along with keeping customers happy and finding good, reliable staff who will stay.

What is a typical day like for you?
I am very hands-on, so there is the reception office; that's mostly taking bookings, online or by phone. I also serve in the licensed shop which sells newspapers, bread, cakes, alcohol, toys, etc. And then, of course, there's cleaning the facilities and ordering stock to keep the shop well stocked.

What do you feel makes your site special?
The site is laid out on different levels so, even when full, there is always a feeling of freedom. The views looking across to the North Yorkshire Moors are spectacular and we are a great park for family holidays, including two outdoor play areas and a football pitch.

What do you love about the region your site is based in?
We are in the countryside surrounded by fields and woods with views looking across to the heart of the North Yorkshire Moors, *Heartbeat* country. The author and vet, James Herriot, described the panorama from nearby Sutton Bank as 'England's finest view'. The coast is an hour's drive away and York is 30 minutes. Helmsley is a small, popular, attractive market town two and a half miles away, where there are plenty of restaurants, pubs and an open-air swimming pool. We are situated near Rievaulx Abbey, Castle Howard and Flamingo Land.

What do you like to do on a rare day off?
My own housework, or catch up with friends and family.

info

GOLDEN SQUARE
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CAMPING PARK
Oswaldkirk, York YO62 5YQ
T 01439 788269
W goldensquarecaravanpark.com

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T: 01248 671114 W: wales-camping.co.uk E: info@wales-camping.co.uk

Set in the stunning scenery of Eryri (Snowdonia) in 20 acres of farmland the campsite has very spacious pitches, with a choice of standard grass non-electric or grass with electric, plus grass or all-weather superpitches with water, drainage and electric. Seasonal pitches are also available.

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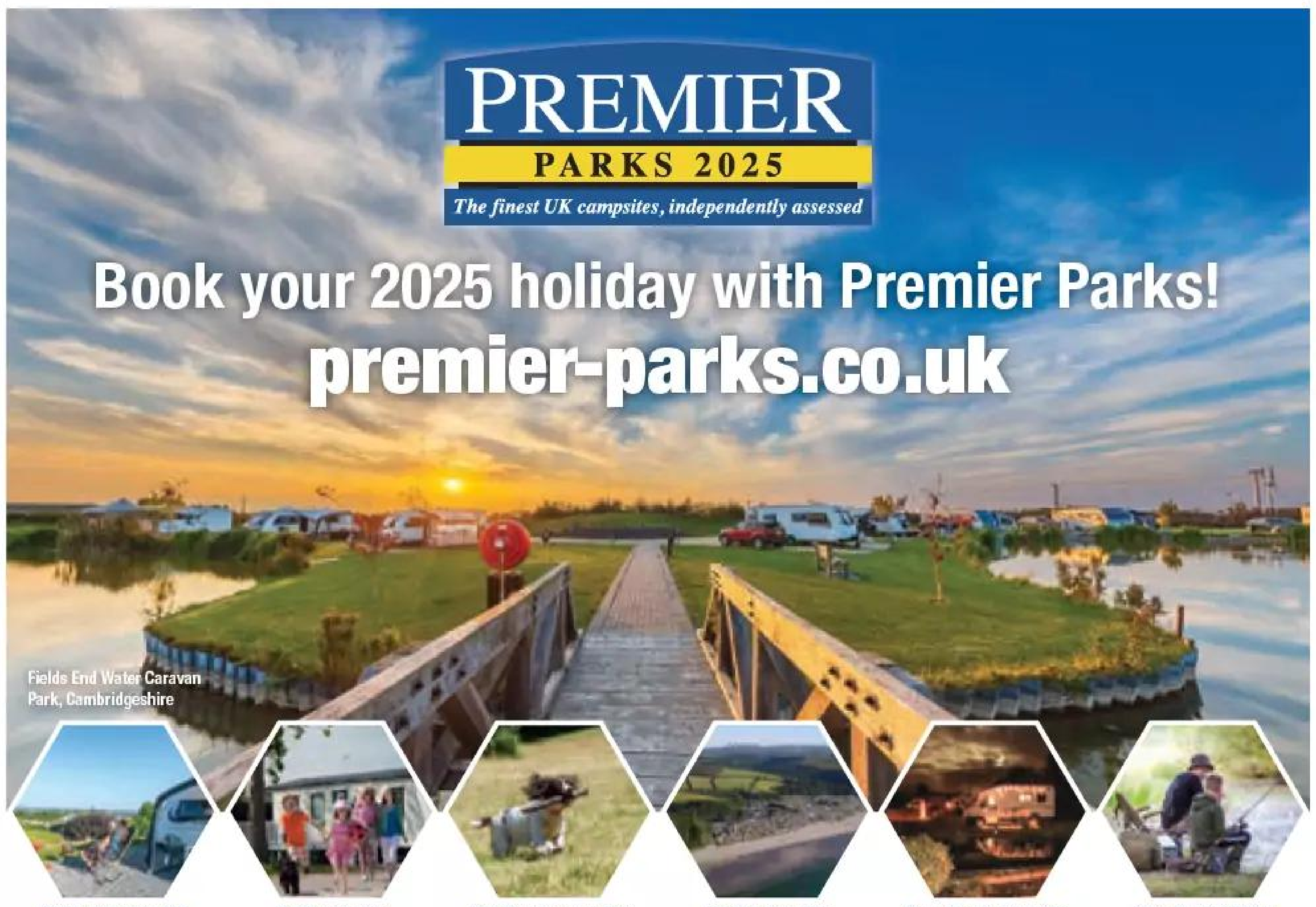

Fields End Water Caravan Park, Cambridgeshire

Bailey of Bristol ▮ W baileyofbristol.co.uk ▮ £25,649

Bailey

Phoenix GT75 640

This is the best-selling model in the Phoenix range – and it has family capability as well as couple appeal

Words: Val Chapman ▮ Photography: Richard Chapman

There are standard-width rear island bed layouts in all manufacturers' ranges – and the lightest of them all is the Bailey Phoenix GT75 640, with an MPTLM of just 1,436kg.

The Elddis Avante 550 comes a very close second on weight, at 1,440kg – but the Phoenix beats it handsomely on price, being £2,150 less. The Sprite Major 4 EB fights its corner in this layout arena with a £25,795 price tag – but this caravan is heavier than the Phoenix 640, at 1,508kg. So, if weight's a governing factor in your purchase, the Phoenix 640 takes the prize.

There are a number of other contenders of this layout on a standard width and single axle, including the Adria Altea Dart, the Elddis Crusader Aurora, Swift's Challenger 560 and Bailey's Unicorn Deluxe Cabrera; all are both heavier and more expensive.

So, light weight apart, what makes the Phoenix GT75 (so-named to celebrate Bailey's 75 years in manufacture) 640 special? We had a day at Leisure Sales, in Cheshire, to find out why this is the best-selling layout in the Phoenix range.

The Leisure Sales team had taken our review 640 away from the forecourt line-up and sited it on the retailer's 'campsite'. It's a lawned and hardstanding area adjacent to – but quite separate from – the display area. It has the ambience of a campsite – so settling down to our analysis here felt very natural.

We started in the centre of the caravan: the kitchen. And straight away we found ourselves praising the amount of work surface. With the hob top down, there's 1.23m of work surface – and, opposite, above the Dometic 103-litre fridge (with 12-litre freezer compartment) is more; that surface measures 56cm by 44cm. Television connections are close to this surface – but the cook doesn't have to share space with a television. That's because there is space for a television on the raised section of shelving within this dresser-style unit. This above-fridge surface is a proper media zone; this is where the portable Sonos speaker, that comes as standard with the caravan, is recharged, and there is also a wireless charging pad with two USB sockets inset. There's a

ABOVE The high-arching window creates a lovely light, bright lounge

RIGHT There's kitchen surface on both sides of the caravan

PHOENIX
PHOENIX

Location

Leisure Sales, Sandbach, Cheshire

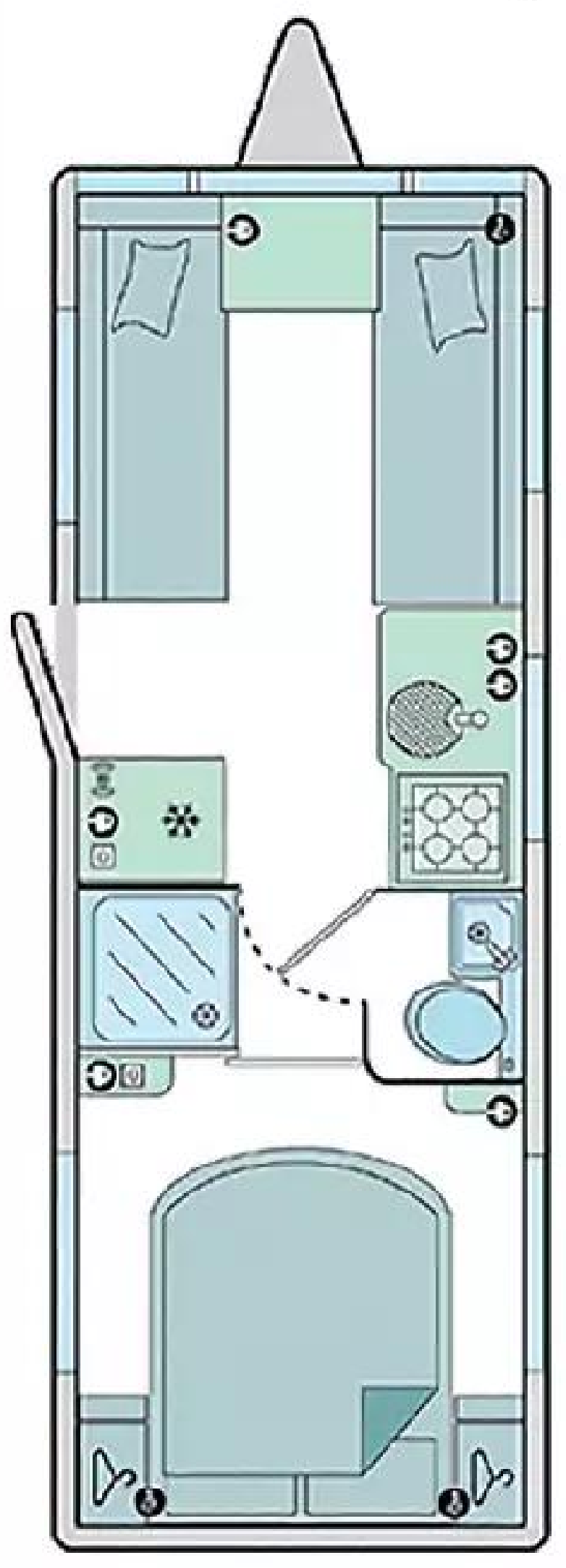
Watch the video at www.bit.ly/baileygt75

locker above this area, to augment storage within the kitchen.

The lower kitchen cabinet is divided into two sections. One is 35cm wide and has three shelf spaces. The other is 33cm wide and has two shelf spaces. The cutlery drawer sits above this section. And, alongside the microwave, there is a double-doored cabinet, 70cm wide and divided into three shelf spaces. There are no racks for plates and mugs, but these can be purchased online from Prima Leisure, a division of Bailey. And, of course, there is a locker for pans under the

fact file

- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 5.84m
  Overall 7.37m
- **Width** 2.21m
- **Headroom** 1.96m
- **Heating system** Truma
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1.281kg
  MTPLM 1,436kg



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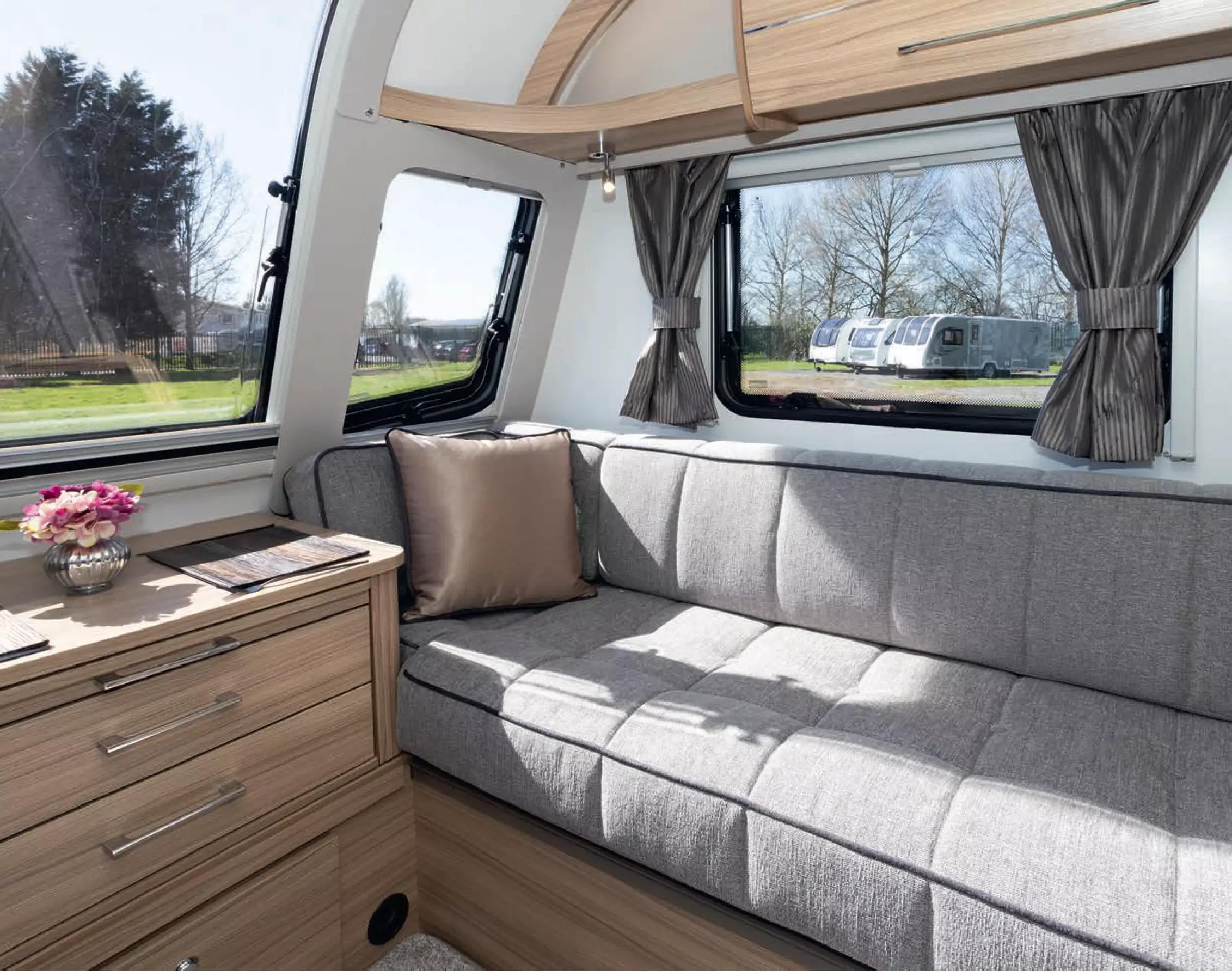


oven. Overall, kitchen storage space is first-rate for a caravan of the 640's mid-range dimensions.

Lighting, too, won our praise. A slim, bright strip of light runs under the top kitchen locker; soft white light emanates from above the kitchen and lounge lockers; spotlights are in the two front corners and two spotlights are set into the frame of the high-arched central front window. And – a really nice touch – the large corner shelves are filled with light from concealed strips that run around the inside edges.

We settled down in the lounge to assess the Phoenix's styling. Upholstery is an on-trend cool grey. The two scatter cushions are in a pale gold colour that catches the light. When you turn them over, the lounge takes on a different colour emphasis; the reverse sides are dark grey. The curtain fabric combines both the pale gold colour and the dark grey, in an abstract vertical pattern.

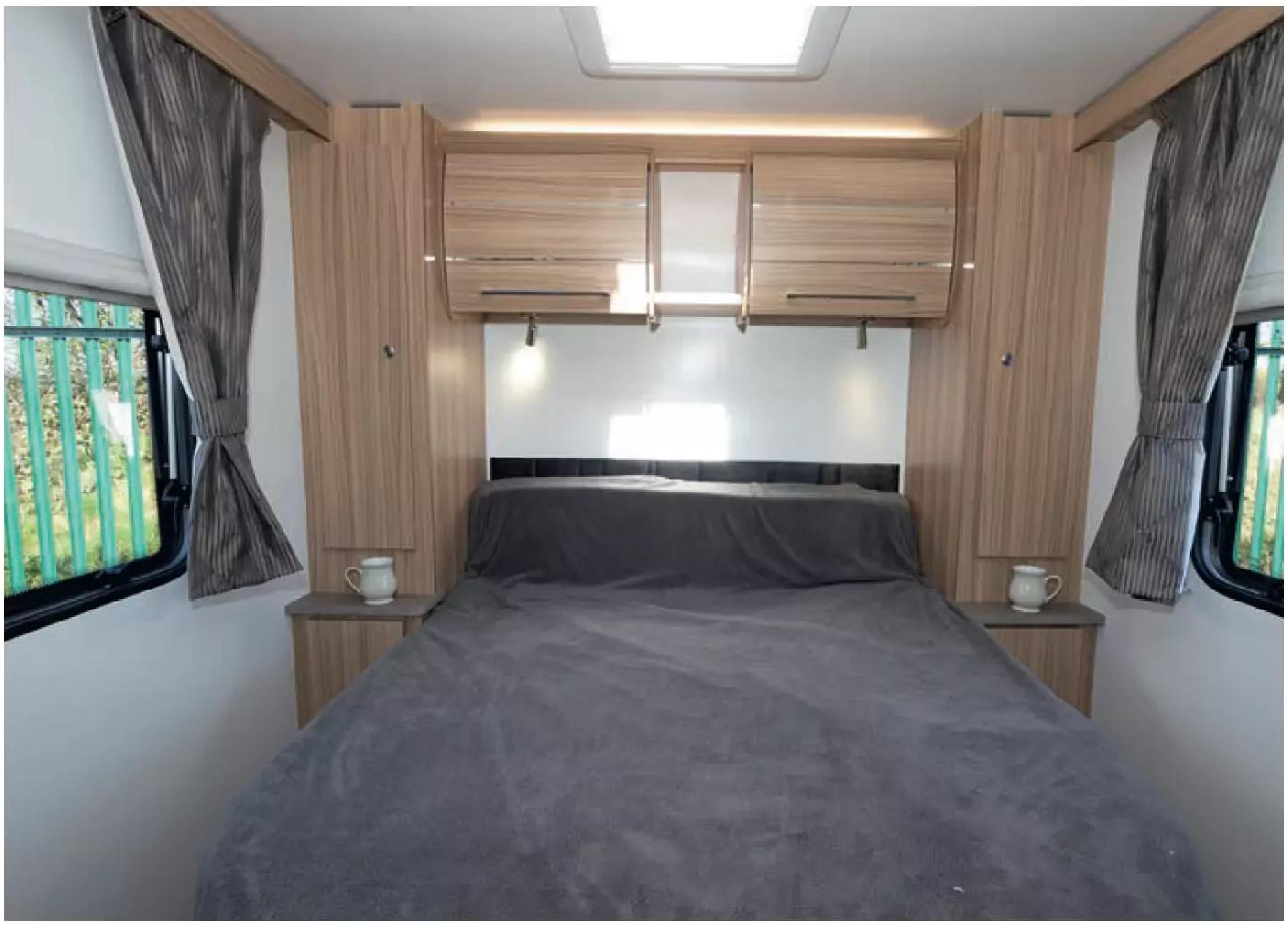
ABOVE
The pale gold colour of the cushions injects a luxury look

BELOW LEFT
The kitchen surface is 1.23m long

BELOW RIGHT
The control for the Truma heating system is close to the kitchen

Fabrics are definitely an aspect of the Phoenix that contribute to an ambience that feels and looks far above this caravan's price tag. Another is something you can't see; that's the composition of the seating – it's sprung upholstery, designed to be durable as well as comfortable. And deep knee rolls make their contribution to comfort.

The free-standing table is stored under the bed, and it's easy to extract and replace, on its four brackets. (The spare wheel lives under where the table is stored but there is still plenty of storage space under the bed.) Although under-bed storage for a table is not the most convenient place, in this layout it's less of an issue than in an L-shaped lounge layout.



ABOVE CLOCKWISE The over-bed lockers are generously sized, at 48cm deep; The curtains bring together the dark and light hues in the cushions; Shelving is not over-generous but there's enough space for necessities; The surface above the fridge measures 56cm by 44cm; This is the charging dock for the portable Sonos speaker that comes with the caravan

That's because a good-sized snack or breakfast table slides out from the centre-front cabinet; it measures 58cm by 39cm. That's plenty large enough for meals for two, especially when you take into account the 51cm-deep windowsill.

One of the reasons why the 640 enjoys best-seller status in the Phoenix range is the length of its settees. They're 1.8m long, so they are large enough to make single beds. So, whereas many fixed-bed caravans are regarded as chiefly designed for couples, this one can work just as well for a family of four as it can for just two.

There's another reason why this model works well for four. That's the door configuration of the central toilet and washing arrangements. You can close off the forward end of the washing area, with the door that doubles as a door to the toilet-washbasin 'room'. And you can slide the rear door across at the bedroom end – privacy guaranteed from both 'bedrooms'.

And the bedroom is a major contributor to the 640's best-seller status. Two windows ensure its super light and bright (here, it scores over transverse island bed caravans, most of which have only one window). There are effectively two dressing tables – although they're tiny. That's one on the nearside with a cabinet beneath and TV connections above, and one on the offside, with a mirror above, and there is a mains socket in the ideal position for hair dryer use.

Small but bright spotlights beam down from the ceiling above both of these areas. Light streams across the ceiling from above the two over-bed lockers, and directional spotlights set into the bases of these lockers both have USB sockets built into their bases (as does one of the two in the lounge).

The wardrobes are 32cm wide and have a two-shelf cabinet beneath. The two over-bed lockers are deeper than most, at 46cm. Plenty of storage space, then.

verdict A light weight, an affordable price and with family capability as well as couple appeal; it's easy to see why the 640 is the best-seller in the Phoenix range. It has a kitchen surface comparable with caravans that are a lot larger. The bedroom plays its part in the appeal of the 640, too, with two windows and two dressing tables. Many elements combine to earn the 640 its star sales status. ■

Alpina MISSISSIPPI

Words: Val Chapman
Photography: Richard Chapman

Adria's line-up

The Slovenian manufacturer, Adria, brings three ranges and one single caravan – that's the iconic Action – to British shores. We take you through each of the models

Adria manufactures one of the smallest caravans you can buy – and also some of the largest. We start with the smallest, at just 3.61m in internal length, and then we take you through the Altea, Adora and Alpina line-up, to tourers that are more than 8m in overall length.

ACTION

As its name implies, the Action has a sporty image; a curved body shape, a comparative light weight – and a stunning appearance.

Initially introduced in 2005, it was an instant hit. Twenty years on, it's still very much in action – and has earned icon status. The curvy lines are almost unchanged – and so is the layout. That's a rear kitchen, with a combined shower and toilet compartment alongside it, and a large seating area that wraps around the whole front end of the caravan. That converts into a large double bed.

Kitchen equipment is a two-burner hob and a combined oven/grill. No microwave.

The fridge sits above a cabinet, forward of the shower room. The cabinet has three shelves – or you can remove the top shelf and use it as a wardrobe; a rail slides out from the 'roof' of the cabinet; clever!

The Action's front window arrangement is another feature that sets it apart from all other caravans. It reaches high up into the roof and, below it, there's a smaller window.

Considering the size of the caravan, there's an impressive amount of storage capability, with lots of space under the settees, plus two small cabinets over the lounge, and first-rate kitchen storage space.

Action fact file

- **Berths** 2
- **Length**
  - **Body** 3.61m
  - **Overall** 5.21m
- **Width** 2.19m
- **Weight**
  - **MIRO** 987kg
  - **MTPLM** 1,300kg
- **Price** £24,760

ALTEA

There are three layouts in the Altea range, all named after British rivers. That's the Tyne, with twin beds, the six-berth Avon, and the Dart, with a rear bedroom and a central shower-toilet configuration.

The Tyne's lounge can be converted to a double bed, making it a four-berth. The kitchen is on the offside, with a 140-litre fridge.

The Avon is a star performer caravan for a young family in that it has three bunks in a stack – which means the bottom bunk is close to floor level, so the little caravanner sleeping here would merely roll onto the carpet if he or she should fall out of bed. Usefully, the base bunk area can be used for storage – there's a hatch to the exterior.

There's a fixed ladder for the central and top bunk. Opposite, the seating area for two converts to a bed. And, at the rear, between the two bed areas, there is a wardrobe.

Opposite the Avon's kitchen is the combined shower/toilet compartment. At the front, the seating extends all of the way around the caravan. A hinged coffee table pops up at the centre-front – and when it's down, the amount of seating space is huge; well up to the caravan's six-berth task. And on the offside, between the seating area and the shower room, is a second wardrobe.

The Dart has the luxury of a rear bedroom. Forward of it is the shower, on the nearside, and the toilet/washbasin compartment is opposite. When you open the door of the toilet area, it swings across the caravan to latch on the forward end of the shower compartment. At the rear of the shower/toilet area, a sliding door divides it from the bedroom. This arrangement means the washing area can be closed off from the kitchen, becoming en suite to the bedroom, or closed off from the bedroom, meaning that people sleeping in the double bed that can be made in the lounge can have the shower en suite to them. It's a popular arrangement and the Dart executes it excellently.

The Dart has a 140-litre fridge and good storage capability in the kitchen.

All three Alteas have inline, three-burner hobs and combined oven/grills, plus microwaves.

Tyne fact file

- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 6.85m
  Overall 8.22m
- **Width** 2.29m
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1,418kg
  MTPLM 1,800kg
- **Price** £29,200

Avon fact file

- **Berths** 6
- **Length**
  Body 6.9m
  Overall 8.25m
- **Width** 2.29m
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1,412kg
  MTPLM 1,800kg
- **Price** £29,080

Dart fact file

- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 6.9m
  Overall 8.26m
- **Width** 2.29m
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1,393m
  MTPLM 1,800kg
- **Price £29,340**

»

ADORA

Four models to choose from, all named after European rivers. The Seine is a classic two-berth, end-kitchen layout; the Tiber is the same layout as the Dart; the Isonzo has a transverse island bed and a rear shower room, and the Sava is Adora's family layout.

Now for the details. All models have the Adria signature wrap-around lounge layout, with hinged coffee tables centre-front.

The Seine is a standard-width caravan, at 2.29m. The shower room spans the width of the caravan behind the twin beds. Its kitchen is on the offside, with the fridge to the rear of it. A hinged extension increases kitchen surface area. Like all Adora models, it has an oven with a separate grill, plus a three-burner hob.

The wardrobe is opposite the kitchen, with a cabinet alongside.

The Tiber, while the same layout as the Dart, is wider, at 2.46m – so, if you like the Dart's layout, but want more space, this is the one for you.

The kitchen is identical to that in the Seine, this time with the 140-litre fridge opposite. Immediately behind is the shower and wash zone, of the same layout as that in the Dart – only with a wider corridor between the shower and the toilet compartment.

The Sava is Adora's only twin-axle model. It's 2.46m wide and has two fixed bunks on the nearside with two more to convert from the seating and table area opposite. The shower room is at the rear, occupying the whole width of the caravan. A large, double-doored wardrobe is forward of the bunks.

Adoras are distinguished by concave locker doors; super stylish! They have Alde heating.

Isonzo has been a best-seller for Adria from its first appearance, and it twice won awards with *Caravan* magazine. It has a transverse island bed, rear shower room and – like the other Adoras – plenty of lounge space, thanks to its 2.46m width and U-shaped seating arrangement.

The kitchen has ample surface (and with a hinged extension) and storage space (in three large drawers). The 140-litre fridge is aft of the kitchen, and opposite, is a generously sized wardrobe. The Isonzo has a super-spacious feel, which goes some way to explain its popularity among buyers.

Seine fact file

- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  - **Body** 6.85m
  - **Overall** 8.19m
- **Width** 2.29m
- **Weight**
  - **MIRO** 1.612kg
  - **MTPLM** 1,800kg
- **Price** £34,030

Tiber fact file

- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  - **Body** 6.9m
  - **Overall** 8.24m
- **Width** 2.46m
- **Weight**
  - **MIRO** 1,622kg
  - **MTPLM** 1,900kg
- **Price** £34,760

Sava fact file

- **Berths** 6
- **Length**
  - **Body** 6.9m
  - **Overall** 8.24m
- **Width** 2.46m
- **Weight**
  - **MIRO** 1,705kg
  - **MTPLM** 2,000kg
- **Price** £35,655

Isonzo fact file

- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  - **Body** 6.95m
  - **Overall** 8.27m
- **Width** 2.46m
- **Weight**
  - **MIRO** 1,652kg
  - **MTPLM** 2,000kg
- **Price** £34,275

ALPINA

Adria's top-spec range offers three layouts, all 2.46m wide. One of them is not just unique, but stunningly different to all other caravans on the British market. That's the Rio Grande, which has its kitchen at the front and its lounge in the centre, comprising an L-shaped sofa and another one opposite, seating at least two. The L-shaped sofa has corner headrests. The kitchen surface space is generous, and so is storage space, with three large drawers plus a cabinet to the left of the kitchen, and this incorporates an extra wardrobe – perfect for coats as you step in through the doorway. (There are also wardrobes on each side of the bed.)

The transverse island bed and shower room are at the rear. The bed structure enables you to raise the pillow end to turn the bed into a sunlounger-style day relaxing area – and a TV bracket mounted on the opposite wall means television watching here is catered for.

The Colorado is the only Alpina to ride on twin axles. This model has twin beds, with the shower room at the rear. As with all models in the range, it has the Alde heating system.

Its kitchen is on the offside, with the 140-litre fridge opposite. Forward of this is a cabinet, with TV connections and a bracket above. And here you find a feature unique to the Alpina range: a small lamp and its own charging dock; you can move the lamp anywhere, and then return it to its station for recharging.

The lounge follows the Adria convention of having wrap-around seating; like the Rio Grande, it has headrests; this time in the front two corners.

The Mississippi is the Alpina to consider if you want an island-bed caravan with a rear shower room and a wrap-around lounge. Like the Colorado, it has corner headrests, and upholstered sections at the front edges of the seating units, creating a luxury look. Also like the Colorado, the pillow sections of the bed can be raised; another nice touch of luxury.

All three Alpinas have an ingenious system of movable shelving in the kitchen; small shelves clip to brackets, so you can place them wherever you wish on these brackets.

And buyers can choose from grey fabric upholstery or cream leather.

Rio Grande fact file

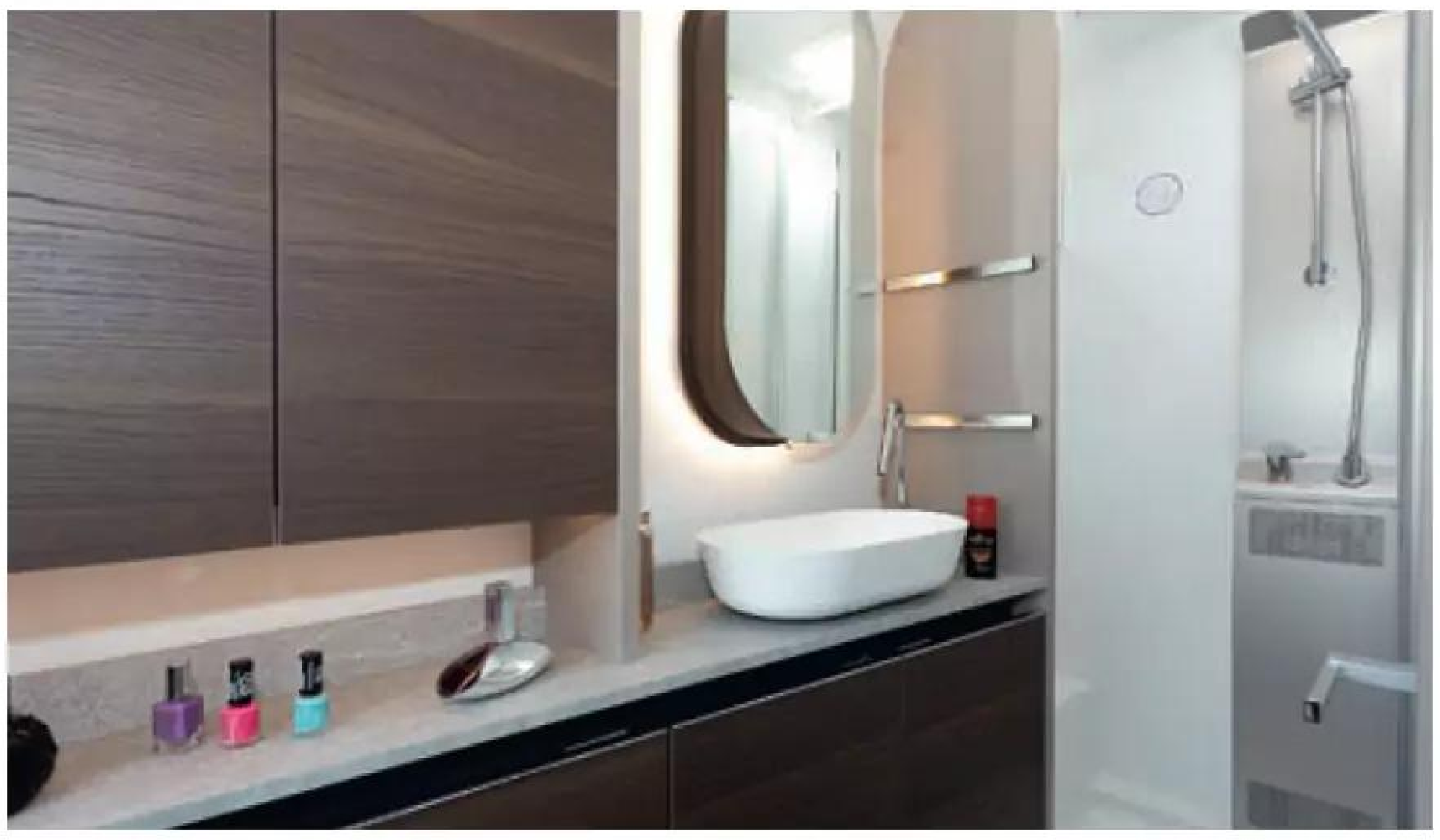
- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 6.89m
  Overall 8.19m
- **Width** 2.46m
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1,785kg
  MTPLM 2,000kg
- **Price** £43,645

Colorado fact file

- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 6.9m
  Overall 8.26m
- **Width** 2.46m
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1.837kg
  MTPLM 2,000kg
- **Price** £44,305

Mississippi fact file

- **Berths** 4
- **Length**
  Body 6.9m
  Overall 8.26m
- **Width** 2.46m
- **Weight**
  MIRO 1.745kg
  MTPLM 2,000kg
- **Price** £42,525



Volkswagen

ID.7 Tourer GTX 4Motion

Electric towing – not plain sailing yet, but VW's first all-electric estate car is impressive

Words & photography
Daniel Attwood

SPRITE
SWIFT

ABOVE A match made in heaven: the VW ID.7 Tourer GTX and the Swift Sprite Compact Exclusive

Not too long ago, the thought of coupling an all-electric car and a caravan was met with derision. Then, a few years ago, we started to see a handful of viable electric towcars come onto the market. Now, with prices dropping and range and practicality rising, there is a choice of several viable zero-emission cars that can comfortably tow a small caravan.

It is not plain sailing just yet though, and you have to be certain this is the right choice for you. Recharging locations, towing capacity and range are still factors. Is the range enough for your needs and can you recharge at your destination? If not, are you comfortable manoeuvring your combination (or unhitching) so you can use a public charging point? And, critically, can the electric car tow your tourer?

Despite weighing a hefty 2.3 tonnes, this new ID.7 – VW's first all-electric estate car – can tow a caravan weighing a maximum of 1.4 tonnes. To put this in perspective, that means some 58 new caravans are suitable for this car, the majority of which are two-berth models.

So, it will suit a couple who own a caravan such as a Swift Basecamp and want the practicality of an estate car for their gear and the eco-credentials of a zero-emissions car.

For such a couple, this towcar begins to make serious sense, especially if – as is most likely – it is acquired through a company car or salary sacrifice scheme where the tax benefits of an electric car are greatest.

To find out what it is like as a towcar, we headed to Lowdhams in Nottinghamshire, where we matched this VW to a two-berth Sprite Compact Exclusive, which weighed just 1,109kg – well under the car's towing capacity.

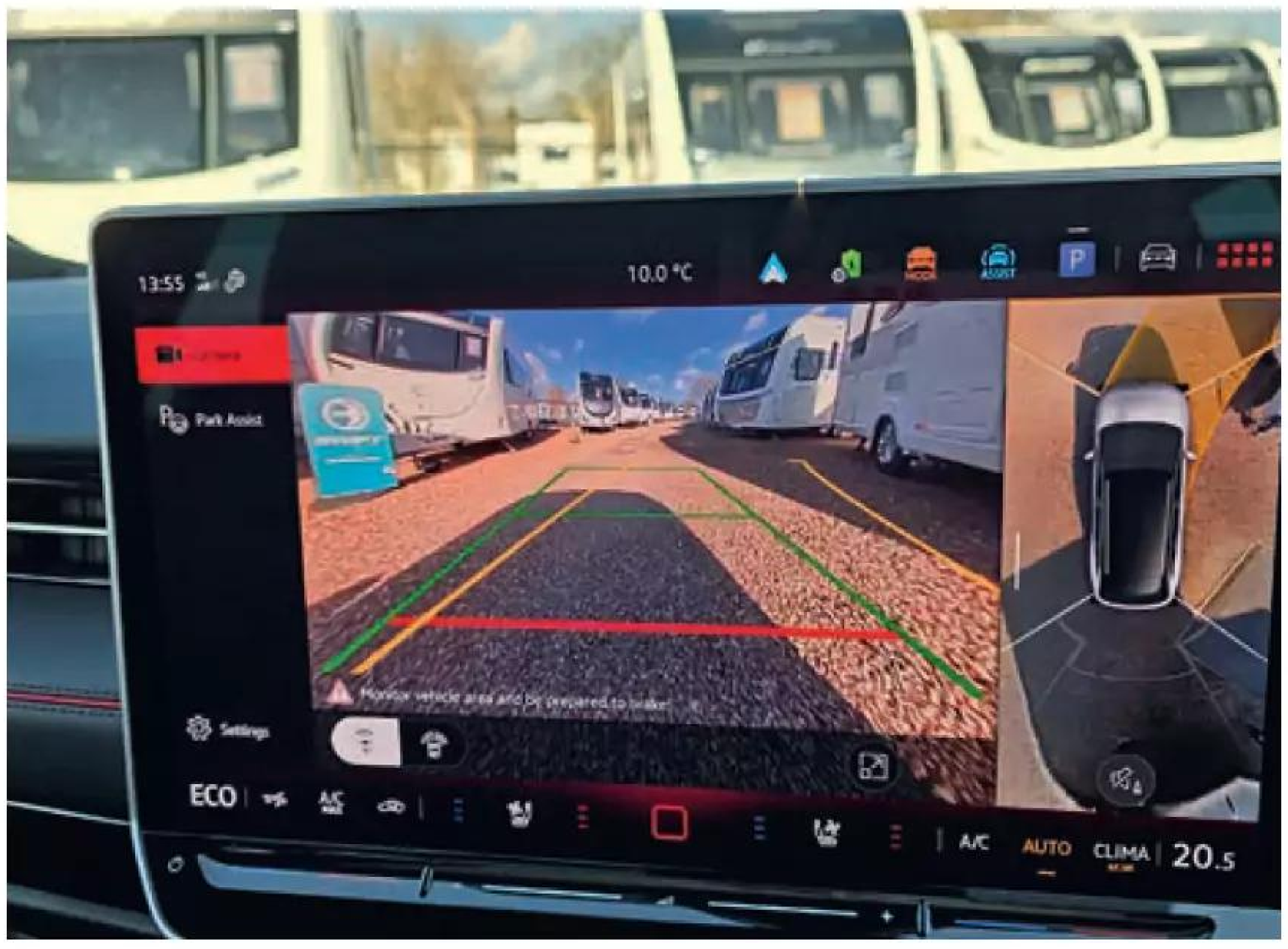
The towbar (£1,050) remains hidden until a button in the boot is

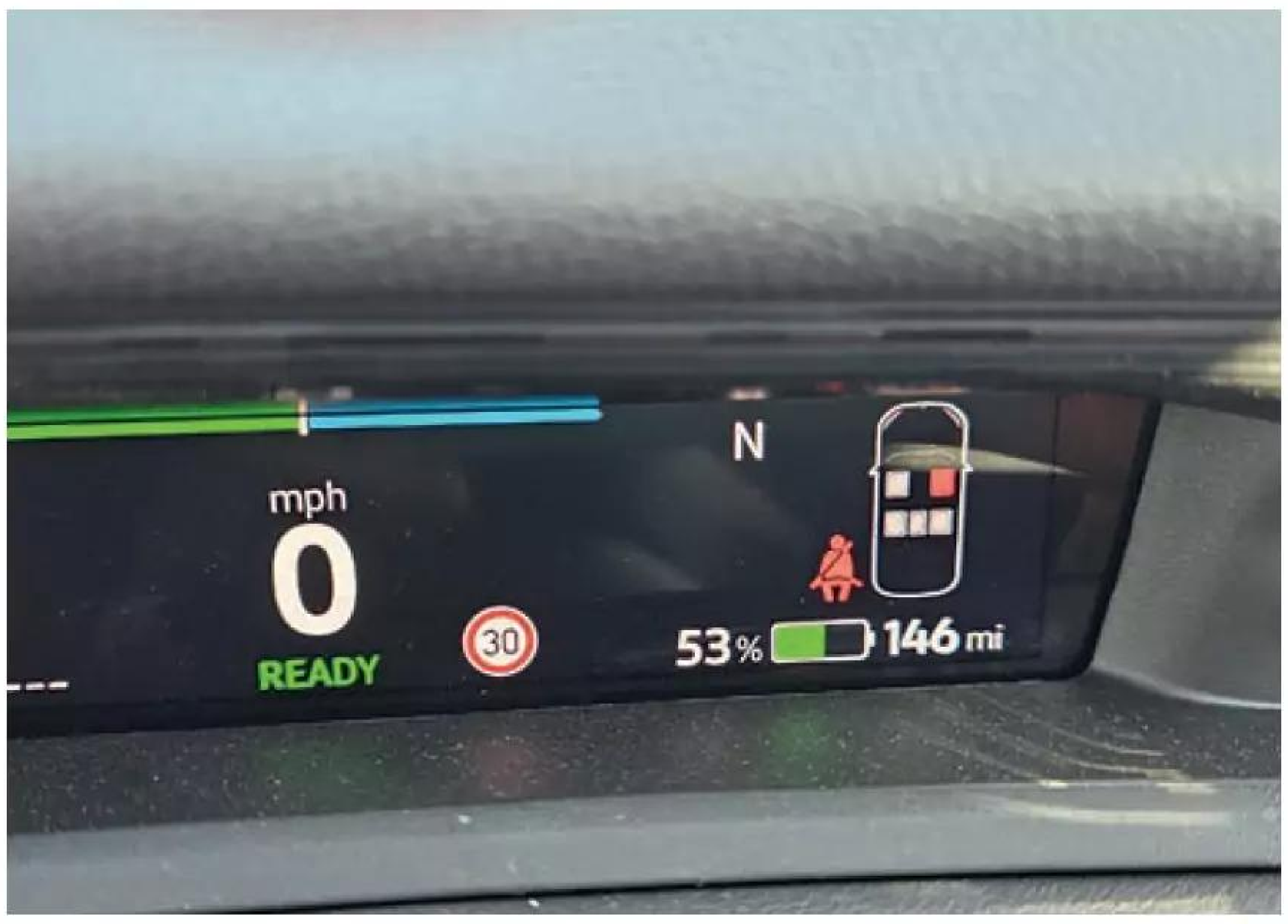
Thanks to...

Lowdhams Nottinghamshire
Volkswagen UK

spec sheet

- **Engine** 91kWh lithium-ion battery pack
- **Output** 340PS and 545Nm
- **Drive** Permanent 4x4
- **Transmission** One-speed auto
- **Price** £61,790 (£67,775 as tested)





depressed, at which point it swings out and just needs a manual twist to lock into position. Then, thanks to the 360-degree helicopter view on the massive central screen, it is a simple manoeuvre to gently reverse and hitch up.

Mirrors on and lights checked, it was the moment of truth – how much of the car's battery reserves would be consumed now we had a 1.2-tonne caravan hitched up? At the start of the multi-road test (single and dual-carriageways with multiple stop/starts, as well as cruising and hard and soft acceleration), the car told us we had 65% and 192 miles in the 'tank'. After an hour, it said we had 53% and 146 miles in reserve.

That's very impressive and we estimate that, on a mild, sunny day – so no lights, no heating and no wipers in use – we could easily tow in excess of 200 miles on a full charge and still have plenty in reserve to unhitch and drive to a charge point if needed. If heading to a reserved pitch with hook-up or a charge point on the campsite and driving gently in 'eco' model, we'd be confident aiming for 250 miles in a single drive, or from the NEC in Birmingham to St Austell in Cornwall.

On the road, it performed faultlessly. That massive amount of power (340PS and 545Nm) that's constantly available and delivered to all four wheels takes all the stress away from towing. Merging with high-speed traffic, overtaking and pulling away are a joy and VW has done what it does so well with the interior to make it not only a practical load lugger (with the rear seats down it can easily take two bikes and luggage) but also quiet, relaxing and a genuinely pleasant place to be.

ABOVE CLOCKWISE Range anxiety is less an issue in this all-electric estate; The huge central screen provides both a helicopter and rear view, making it simple to reverse and hitch up; The number of caravans this new VW can tow is still limited

verdict This could just be the car that tempts caravanning couples to switch to an electric car. Its range is impressive when towing, its space and comfort levels are exemplary and its price is competitive against a comparable high-end diesel estate. ■

Words: Mike Hallam, Your Dog Editor

Claudia Kobold/Shutterstock

Paws on tour

Settling your dog on holiday

You have booked your getaway and it's time to start packing your caravan. Most confident dogs will adapt to a new situation without much stress, but for anxious dogs it can take a little longer.

THE ESSENTIAL KIT

There are a host of things you'll need to take away with you, including

✔ Lead – check your lead is in good condition and be sure to pack it as most attractions will only let in dogs on leads

✔ Collar and harness

✔ Bedding

✔ Towels – to dry off after walks – or swims!

✔ Dog food – take enough for the duration of your holiday

✔ Treats

✔ Bowls

✔ Poo bags

✔ Brushes

✔ Canine first aid kit

✔ Tick remover kit – removing ticks safely is key to reducing the risk of infection

✔ Toys

✔ Pet insurance – ensure your insurance is up to date before you go

✔ Pheromone diffuser or spray if used

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HELP SETTLE YOUR DOG

Your doggy holiday kit should include a few key items for helping your dog settle. Probably the most important is your dog's bed. If you can take his regular bed with you that will help the caravan to feel familiar. If you can't fit your pet's bed in the caravan, then it could be an idea to get a smaller bed for holidays.

Pheromone sprays and diffusers contain a synthetic copy of natural calming pheromones that dogs release. Using one of these can help your dog settle and gain that extra reassurance if he needs it.

Your dog's toys are also really useful at making his surroundings feel more familiar. Take a variety of toys and rotate them throughout your break. They will contain scents that he recognises and will help him settle as they provide lots of fun!

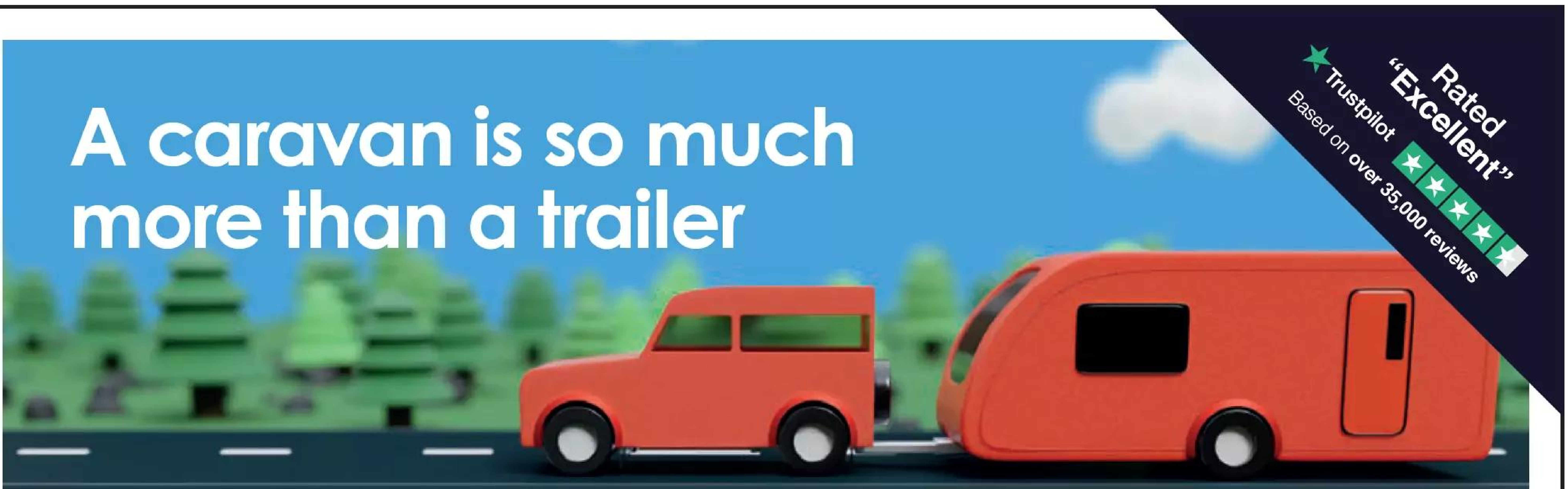
ON ARRIVAL

When you get to your campsite, make it a top priority to show him where you expect him to toilet. Take him out regularly to minimise the risks of accidents on the campsite pitch!.

Check out your new environment yourself, too. This gives you chance to identify any potential problems such as dogs on neighbouring pitches.

Be sure that you know the details of the nearest veterinary surgery, wherever you go on holiday, just in case you need it in an emergency (hopefully you won't!).

YOUR DOG Interested in more great dog advice and inspiration? See Your Dog magazine **W yourdog.co.uk**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Caravan insurance

Looking after your investment is key

Words & photography: Lee Davey

ABOVE
A new-for-old policy will cover the full replacement cost of your caravan, which can run into tens of thousands of pounds

The insurance marketplace is vast and, as consumers, we are well-versed in insuring everything from the pets we adore to the houses we live in. However, does this peace of mind extend to your caravan insurance policy?

We'll examine touring caravan insurance policies in more detail, including the types of cover available, whether all caravan insurance policies are the same, and the sizeable discounts you may automatically be entitled to.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Much like our insurance policies for homes, cars, pets and other items, caravan insurance covers your touring caravan against certain insurable risks. These risks include theft and accidental damage, with some policies encompassing your caravanning essentials, such as awnings, motor movers, air-conditioning units, barbecues, etc. Insurers can also tailor cover to suit caravans permanently sited on a seasonal pitch.

DO I NEED CARAVAN INSURANCE?

Legally, no, you do not need to have insurance for your caravan – but it would be a serious mistake not to have it. So, it's worth covering a few points in detail to explain why.

If your car insurance policy covers your caravan while towing (most policies do, but you should always check), damage caused to a third party is covered. This is the legal minimum required while towing. However, your car insurance policy will not cover any damage to your caravan, even if you have comprehensive car cover.

Caravans can be quite an investment, so it's important to get dedicated insurance. This is not a one-size-fits-all solution; there are numerous factors that underwriters take into account when determining the cost of your policy. This means that no two quotes will be identical; each caravan and its owner have unique circumstances. As a rough guide, it costs me a few hundred pounds per year to insure my Bailey caravan, which has a motor mover and an air-conditioning unit.

WHAT'S COVERED?

Even experienced caravanners can encounter low-hanging branches, rocks obscured in roadside undergrowth, or posts on a campsite pitch. Thankfully, caravan insurance covers accidental damage.

It can also cover you in the event of a road accident. We need to reference towing experience here; experienced folk know they have to lessen speed on downhill gradients and allow room when cornering to avoid clipping a tight kerb, but accidents do happen.

FAQ

- **Does car insurance cover a caravan while it's being towed?**

Most comprehensive car policies cover the caravan while it is being towed but always check with your car's insurance company. This can cover you for third-party risks, such as if your caravan collides with another vehicle while being towed. Any damage to the caravan will only be covered by a caravan insurance policy, not your car policy.

- **Are you covered if the person towing the caravan becomes ill?**

Yes, some do. It is common for only one person in a family or couple to tow the caravan, and insurance companies recognise this; a mere sprained ankle can render a driver unable to drive. Some policies will arrange to bring your caravan home if this occurs during your holiday.

- **Does the age of a caravan matter?**

Some companies insure caravans up to 25 years old, while others may cover a 30-year-old caravan. This can very between insurers, so contact multiple companies if you're struggling to insure a vintage caravan.

- **Can I include personal possessions on a caravan insurance policy?**

Yes, although it may be worth checking your house insurance policy to avoid duplicate cover. Things to look at include policy exclusions, such as specified items, and the excess amount for each policy type.

- **Will my caravan insurance policy cover friends or family who wish to borrow our caravan?**

Certain policies can extend cover to friends or family who are borrowing your caravan. However, ensure cover is in place before they embark on a holiday.

- **Which companies offer specialist caravan insurance?**

Among the best-known, and in no particular order, are Lifesure, Caravan Guard, Ripe, Shield Total Insurance, Caravanwise, Grove & Dean, Adrian Flux, Safeguard, Towergate, Coast, and the two major Clubs.

Even though experienced caravanners know the hazards of towing in high winds, there are occasions when that is unavoidable. For example, you may be unable to delay your return to work to wait for high winds to subside. Plus, high winds may develop when you are on a journey. You keep the speed down, of course, but gusts can happen, and accidents can result.

Storm damage is another covered risk. Severe hailstorms can harm the roof of your caravan, fencing panels can break free in high winds and collide with your caravan, and should an awning collapse or partially collapse, its poles can wreak havoc with caravan side panels.

Caravan insurance, however, isn't all about towing and touring. If your caravan is sited in one place on a seasonal pitch, site owners will likely want to see a copy of your insurance policy, as most have a rule that all caravans on the campsite must be insured.

Theft is a worrying thought for any caravan owner, as it can result in the loss of valued possessions. While it's unsettling to think that your items could be stolen, having insurance can offer peace of mind. This coverage helps policyholders recover financially by covering costs related to damage or replacement, making them feel more secure about their investments.

Caravanning kit (awnings, barbecues, outdoor furniture, motor movers, TVs, AC units, etc) can also be expensive, and a dedicated policy can include these items if specified.

BELOW Even older caravans can be costly to fix or replace if they get damaged, lost, or stolen

TYPES OF CARAVAN INSURANCE

Two common types of cover are new-for-old and market value.

New-for-old cover means that your caravan is insured for its full replacement cost with a new caravan. Insurance companies typically offer this cover for caravans up to a specified age, usually 15 years old. »

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BAILEY
PHOENIX+

ABOVE
Insurance cover for taking your caravan over the Channel should be standard, but check before you travel

Market value cover means the caravan is insured for its current retail value. Because caravans tend to hold their values better than cars, checking your caravan's value at renewal time is essential.

CARAVAN INSURANCE DISCOUNTS

As a caravanner, I'm not a fan of spending money unnecessarily. Thankfully, serious discounts can be had on policy costs, many of which you may already qualify for. The list below will give you an indication of what discounts can be obtained. Discount percentages vary among different brokers and insurance companies, of course, but it shows the potential for savings.

- Discounts for periods without claims
- For an approved tracking device
- Secure storage often attracts discount
- Some insurers offer a discount for the use of axle wheel locks
- CaSSOA rated storage can attract discount (see below)
- Discount is sometimes offered for the Al-Ko ATC electronic anti-snaking device
- Tyron bands, or TMPS, or tyre sealant can earn a discount, too.
- And if you have a reversing camera fitted to your caravan, that can earns you a discount!

Quotes depend not just on the value of the caravan but also on where it is stored when not in use. Caravan storage facilities that have the maximum CaSSOA (Caravan Storage Site Owners' Association) security rating, for example, will likely attract a discount on your premium regardless of the insurer. As with house and car insurance, the area you live in (if you store your caravan at home) has a bearing on the cost.

The cost of a policy is also influenced by the security devices you have. Wheel clamps and hitch locks are mandatory for most policies, and this combination may be the minimum security required. It's worth noting that security products have to be approved to attract a discount. Your insurer will have a list of such products, so it's worth getting in touch before opting for a particular make and model of security product.

Al-Ko's ATC stands for automatic trailer control, and it is designed to detect a snaking motion when towing before automatically applying the caravan brakes. It aims to straighten the caravan before the snaking motion becomes serious.

WHAT IS AN INSURANCE EXCESS?

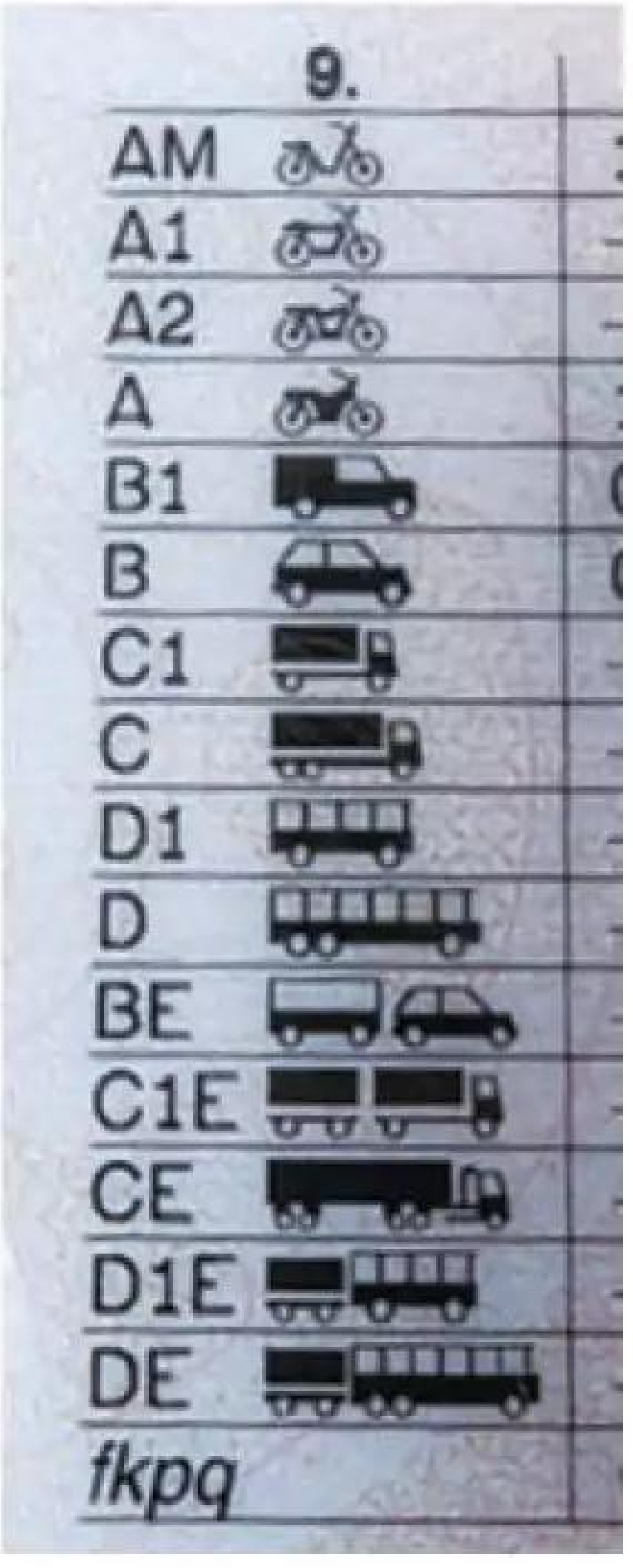
Simply put, an insurance excess is the amount you must pay in the event of a claim. This can vary, with typical amounts being £100, £250, or £500. Choosing a higher excess amount may lower your premium.

EUROPEAN CARAVAN TRAVEL

It's commonplace for caravan insurance policies to include European travel cover, but make sure this cover is in place before visiting the near Continent and beyond. My own policy includes 180 days of European cover per year, which can be extended to 240 days. Check the small print on your policy before travelling abroad, as it will likely ask you to adhere to European travel rules on **gov.uk** for the policy to remain in force.

»

BELOW
You may get a discount if you have an HGV licence, or experience driving larger vehicles



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ARE ALL POLICIES THE SAME?

In short, no. Check the small print before accepting a quotation to ensure it meets your needs. Some insurers may not offer cover for a specific item of equipment, or the insurable risks may not be as comprehensive as another policy.

Before signing on the dotted line, read through the small print, including the policy section that details what's covered and what's not. Taking a few moments to check these areas can save you hundreds, if not thousands, of pounds. The cheapest isn't always the best.

WHAT MIGHT NOT BE COVERED?

This is based on my own policy and experiences, so this list isn't exhaustive. The following are highlights.

- Frost damage to permanent water or heating installations
- Damage by animals, including pets or vermin
- Tyre damage (although a new tyre will likely cost less than your insurance excess)
- Water ingress

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET A CARAVAN INSURANCE QUOTE?

- Caravan details. Make, model, and how many berths, ie Bailey Phoenix GT75 762, six-berth
- Caravan and equipment values. The cost of your caravan plus any kit fitted (including awnings, etc) can soon add up, so make sure these values truly reflect the replacement cost
- Storage information. Do you keep your caravan at home or in a dedicated storage yard? You'll need the full address and details of any security features
- Caravan security devices. List the security features fitted – hitch lock, wheel lock, axle lock, tracker, etc – and ensure you always fit the items mentioned. If you have a tracker, the subscription will need to be active
- Caravan safety devices. Do you have Al-Ko ATC, TPMS (tyre pressure monitoring system), or a reversing camera?
- Insurance cover start date. When would you like the cover to start?
- CRiS number or VIN. This is usually a 17-digit mixture of letters and numbers on a window sticker. Or, it may be etched onto your caravan's chassis or window.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Although not a legal requirement, caravan insurance is vital to protect your tourer and the associated equipment you take on holiday. No matter how careful, accidents can happen, and such cover offers peace of mind, even if an incident isn't your fault. Specialist insurers know the caravan market inside out, so it's worth contacting them for a competitive quote.

Yackers1/istockphoto.com

EXPERT ADVICE: INDUSTRY INSIDERS SHARE THEIR TOP TIPS

NEW-FOR-OLD

Tom Doy, Product & Underwriting Development Manager Adrian Flux advises to check your new-for-old cover. "You will have to enter the value as what a brand-new replacement would be worth and not the current market value to be covered correctly. Remember, there are limited insurers that will offer new-for-old if the caravan is more than 10 years old. So always check both levels of cover (new-for-old and market value) to get the best prices available."

TIPS ON DISCOUNTS

Liz Harrison, of Caravan Guard Insurance, offers tips covering discounts and insured values. "When it comes to caravan insurance there are loads available, ranging from those for caravan security and safety devices, to those for previous caravanning or towing experience, and for secure storage of your caravan. Get your caravan value and equipment values correct for the level of cover you've selected to make sure you're neither underinsured or overpaying."

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Lifesure's Head of Insurance, Nick Long, has some very sound advice about researching and understanding exactly what you will get for your money. "When buying touring caravan insurance, consider the overall value a product provides, based on the price offered. One policy may look the cheapest, but it could have limited cover and might not come to your aid when you perhaps think it should! So, review the terms and conditions of a policy to make sure it meets your needs; this will avoid any nasty surprises should you need to make a claim. The service a company provides can be gauged via customer review sites such as Feefo, where like-minded people give insight to their experiences. Check these reviews to see what customers say about the service they have received. Also, do you recognise the insurance brand? Have they experience in selling touring caravan insurance? Does the broker or insurer have a long history or heritage? Are they an experienced insurance expert who can evidence providing support when you need it most?"

DON'T BE UNDERINSURED

A spokesperson for Shield Total Insurance warns about the risks of being underinsured. "When insuring on a new-for-old basis, you need to establish how much a new replacement caravan is worth. For example, you may have a 2015 tourer, but you need to pay the premium for a 2025 tourer. This amount may be very much higher. If insuring as market value, it is a false economy to select a value higher than you caravan is worth. In the event of a total loss, you will only recoup what the assessors deem to be the market value, so you may be paying more premium than you need to in the interim.

A good option is agreed or guaranteed value. If you have bought the unit from a recognised dealer in the last five years, irrespective of the unit's age, the insurers can take the receipt purchase price as the agreed value. In the case of a total loss, you will likely get back the amount you paid for it, so will suffer no detriment and will have paid the relevant premium all along. ■

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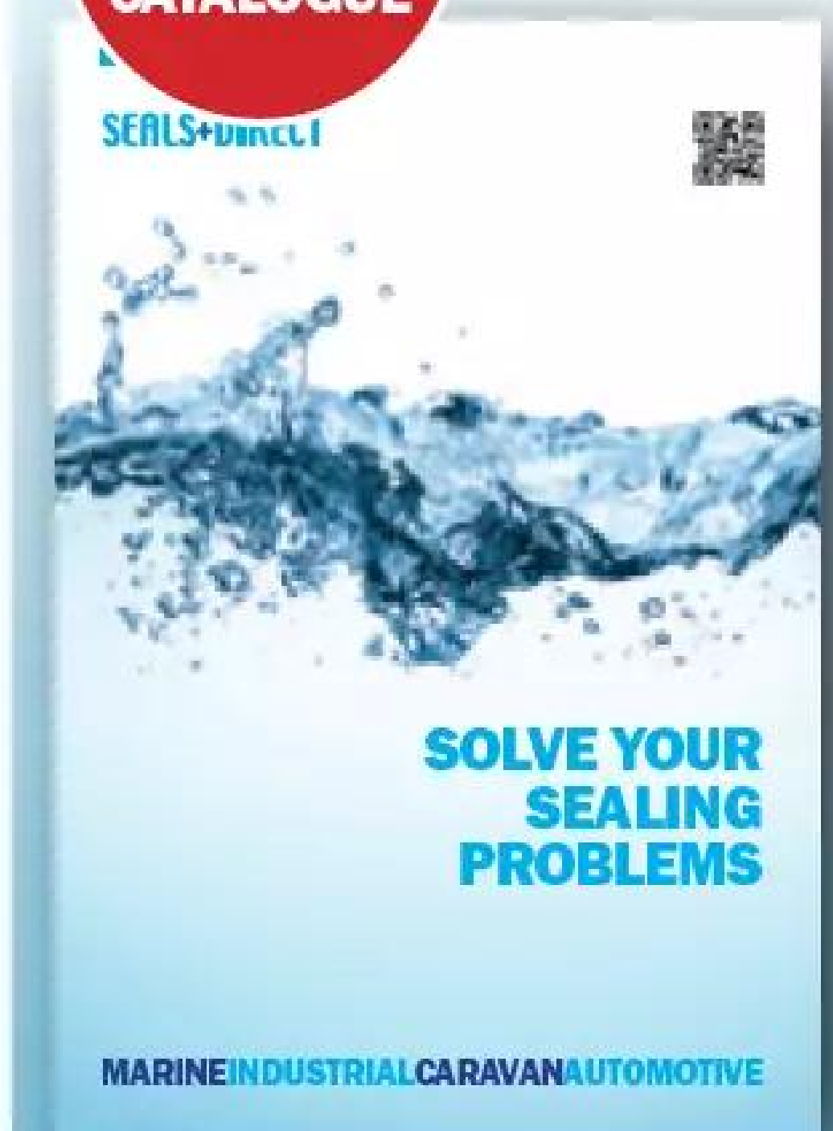
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Adwick Caravans

Caravan talks to Billy Lee, Managing Director of Adwick Caravans, near Doncaster

With a family-run ethos, pride of exceptional service and diverse stock, Adwick Caravans has a strong message to appeal to potential customers.

This dealership is based close to Doncaster. It takes its name from the village of Adwick-le-Street, just off the A1, and is run by the Lee family. Billy Lee, Managing Director, told us, "I'm excited to share our story and showcase what makes our family-run business a trusted choice for caravanning and motorhome enthusiasts."

Q What is the story behind Adwick Caravans, and how has its family-run ethos shaped its success?

A Adwick Caravans was founded in February 2017 by myself, Billy Lee, with a vision to make caravanning accessible and enjoyable for all. As a family-run business based in Doncaster, we've grown by putting customers first, and my cousin, Jason Lee, now leads the team. Our family ethos drives everything we do—treating customers like part of our community, offering honest advice, and building lasting relationships. This commitment has made us a trusted name in Yorkshire's caravanning community, and we're proud to continue that legacy.

Q How does Adwick Caravans ensure exceptional customer service, and what makes it a trusted choice for caravan buyers?

A At Adwick Caravans, exceptional customer service starts with listening. We take time to understand each customer's needs, whether they're first-time buyers or seasoned caravanners, offering tailored advice to find the perfect caravan or motorhome. Our transparent pricing, no-pressure sales approach and comprehensive aftersales support—such as servicing and warranties—set us apart. We're honoured that customers trust us for our honesty and expertise, making Adwick a go-to choice for caravanning enthusiasts across the region.

Q What do customers say about their experiences with Adwick Caravans, and how do your Google reviews reflect your reputation?

A Our customers' feedback means the world to us, and we're thrilled to hold a 4.3/5 star rating on Google, based on hundreds of reviews. Buyers often praise our friendly, knowledgeable staff and stress-free buying process. One recent review said, "Adwick Caravans made our first purchase so easy—the team went above and beyond!" These reviews reflect our commitment to delivering outstanding experiences, and we're grateful for the trust our customers place in us.

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Q What types of caravans does Adwick Caravans offer, and why is your stock ideal for a range of buyers, from first-timers to experienced caravanners?

A Adwick Caravans offers a diverse stock of 60 to 70 caravans and motorhomes, catering to every budget and lifestyle. First-time buyers love our affordable caravans starting at just £999, perfect for easy towing and family adventures. Experienced travellers can explore premium motorhomes up to £100,000, featuring luxury layouts from top brands like Bailey, Swift, Auto-Trail, Coachman and Elddis. From compact two-berth caravans upwards, our extensive range ensures everyone finds their ideal home on wheels. Visit **adwickcaravans.co.uk** to browse our latest stock.

Q What unique value or deals can customers expect when choosing Adwick Caravans, and how do you ensure fair pricing?

A At Adwick Caravans, we're committed to offering unbeatable value through fair, transparent pricing and exclusive deals. Customers can enjoy our current seasonal promotion of free starter packs with every caravan purchase, plus flexible financing options to suit any budget. We also offer delivery anywhere in the UK and export abroad, making it easy for customers to get their dream vehicle. Our fair pricing promise means no hidden costs – just quality. Whether you're after a budget-friendly caravan or a luxury motorhome, you'll find great value at Adwick, backed by our trusted service.

Q Where is Adwick Caravans located, and how does its accessibility make it convenient for customers across the region?

A Adwick Caravans is conveniently located near Adwick-le-Street, Doncaster, just off the A1, A19, and M62, making us easily accessible for customers across Yorkshire and beyond. Our spacious showroom and ample parking create a welcoming environment to explore our stock. Whether you're local or travelling from further afield, we're perfectly positioned to help you find your dream caravan or motorhome, with delivery available across the UK and abroad. Pop in or explore our range at **adwickcaravans.co.uk!**

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Adwick Caravans is the home of high-quality pre-owned touring caravans and has a highly committed team. Their first priority is to ensure when you buy a caravan you exactly what you are looking for!

With their knowledge, experience and reputation, you can feel at ease that you are going to get the best service, whether you are choosing your first caravan, or looking for that upgrade to fulfil your touring needs. They are proud to stock top quality vehicles at the dealership with every type of model, layout and budget to suit your needs.

This is why so many customers choose to use Adwick Caravans, time after time, due to their knowledge of the leisure and touring industry. Visit website and please don't hesitate to contact them for any queries or to book a viewing at their caravan and motorhome dealership in Yorkshire.

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Coachman VIP 530/4
Fixed French Double Bed Side Washroom
£5,999

Swift Conqueror 630
Fixed French Double Bed Full Rear Bathroom
£12,499

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS SAY ...

"A+++ service!"

Excellent variety of stock. Came down to browse as wasn't sure what I wanted. There was no pressure to buy. The guy I spoke too was super nice, not pushy at all. Ended up asking him for the best price on a van and he did me an amazing deal, so I bought there and then. A+++ service!

★★★★★

– Sam Raynor

"Fantastic value!"

Exceptional service and fantastic value! The selection was impressive, with options to suit all budgets, and the team was incredibly helpful in answering our questions and guiding us to the perfect choice. The motorhome we purchased was in excellent condition, exactly as described, and the whole process was smooth and hassle-free. We couldn't be happier and highly recommend this site to anyone looking for a quality caravan or motorhome!

★★★★★

– Chris Gill

"Friendly and Helpful"

I wasn't sure what I was after, but the staff were friendly and helpful and offered great advice based on my budget and needs. They gave me all the information I needed, and I came back the next day to put down a deposit. Great service.

★★★★★

– Adam Blakey

QUESTIONS & answers

Our caravan expert, Lee Davey, answers your questions

Advice for a beginner

Q I'm new to caravanning. What's one piece of advice you'd give a beginner?

A **Start with short trips close to home. When you're new to caravanning, everything from hitching up to setting up on a site can initially feel overwhelming. Taking a short trip not far from home gives you the chance to get used to how everything works without the pressure of a long drive or being far from home. It's a great way to test your set-up, figure out what essentials you might have forgotten, and build confidence towing and manoeuvring the caravan. You'll feel much more prepared for longer adventures once you've had a couple of successful short trips.**

Lee Davey

Must-haves, or desirables?

Q Are there any must-have gadgets you'd recommend for a caravan?

A **Personally, my favourite gadgets are:**

- **Solar panel. This is a great piece of kit that allows me to save money on caravan holidays. On an off-grid CL site in Padstow, I found a good example of this as it cost just £7.50 per night!**
- **Motor mover. As mentioned elsewhere on this page, a motor mover is a get-out-of-jail-free card for when there's not enough room or things just aren't going right**
- **TPMS. These devices monitor tyre pressures on the caravan and keep you abreast of any pressure or temperature fluctuations**
- **Lithium leisure battery. I'm relatively new to lithium (about 18 months), but it's been amazing so far. Pricey, but they work so well**

Lee Davey

Levelling advice

Q How do I level my caravan properly once I'm on a site? Some of the CL sites we've stayed at recently have been undulating.

A **Start by levelling side to side (across the axle) using levelling ramps under the wheels—check with a spirit level across the floor, cabinets, etc. The caravan can be pulled up a levelling ramp with your car, or a motor mover makes light work of this if you have one fitted. Once level side to side, apply the handbrake and chock the wheels. Then adjust front to back with the jockey wheel until your spirit level reads even lengthways. Lower the corner steadies, and you're good to go.**

Lee Davey

ASK THE EXPERTS... Email your tech questions and pictures to caravan@warnersgroup.co.uk or, if you prefer to post, write to Questions & Answers, *Caravan* Magazine, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincs PE10 9PH

How to check your battery's function

Lee Davey

Q What should I do if the leisure battery keeps going flat? This seems to happen when in storage and on holiday.

A Here are three easy steps to check your battery: Is the battery OK? If it's old or of limited capacity, the fault may lie with the battery itself.

Is there a permanent drain on the battery? This is easy to check with a multimeter. Disconnect the mains EHU and/or solar if necessary. Remove the negative battery terminal and place the multimeter between the negative terminal of the battery and the negative lead that's just been removed. If it shows current, isolate the circuit by removing fuses individually or turning off each RCD. When the current drops, you've found the circuit.

If there's no permanent draw, is it charging correctly—via mains hook-up, solar, or the car when towing?

How to eliminate musty smells

Lee Davey

Q How do I keep my caravan fresh and well-ventilated during storage? Every time we return to the caravan, regardless of the time of year, it smells musty.

A The key is air circulation. Leave internal cupboard and wardrobe doors slightly ajar and pull seat cushions an inch or so from the wall. Moisture absorbers or dehumidifier crystals can help prevent damp, especially in colder months. Your fridge may have a latch to keep it ajar, which helps stop mould, or a tea towel can be used to prop open the door. If possible, regularly checking and airing your caravan during long-term storage will also help.

Motor movers can be game-changers!

Q We're looking to buy a caravan and some of the caravans that we have looked at have motor movers. Do I really need a motor mover, or is it just a luxury?

A While technically not essential, a motor mover can be a game-changer, especially if you sometimes pitch solo, have a larger caravan, or need to manoeuvre into tight spaces at home or on a site. It turns a two-person job into a one-finger operation and can prevent damage that may result from awkward reversing. I think of a motor mover as a get-out-of-jail-free card for when things don't quite go to plan. I think they're great.

Lee Davey

Tips for motorway towing

Q What are your tips for safely towing a caravan on motorways? I'm especially nervous about towing on major, multi-lane roads, and a few wise words may settle my nerves.

A First, always load your caravan correctly and check that the noseweight is between 5% and 7% of the caravan's MTPLM (use a noseweight gauge such as the one pictured). This will help stability. The speed limit is 60mph (unless otherwise indicated), and this should be a comfortable towing speed for a correctly balanced outfit. Don't forget – you can't use the outside lane on a motorway with three or more lanes. Ensure your extension mirrors are correctly adjusted. Give larger vehicles plenty of room where possible. Above all, relax and enjoy it, as motorways are a great way of reaching your destination.

Lee Davey

GOT A QUERY? Our expert team is happy to answer your questions, whether they relate to touring or towing, DIY or disasters! Whatever it is that's been causing you bother, we are on hand to help!

FOLLOW Find Lee Davey here:
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The perfect picture – anywhere

Your complete caravan satellite dish guide – all you need to know is here

Few types of holiday can rival the escapism of caravanning, but we nevertheless all love to sit back and relax in front of a TV from time to time.

However, finding a good TV signal can occasionally be frustrating; something that a caravan satellite dish can overcome.

We have more TV choices than ever, from online streaming services to bollard-mounted coax plugs, although different destinations – especially those overseas – can play havoc with our viewing pleasure. Here's how a caravan satellite system can ease our potential TV woes.

WHAT IS A CARAVAN SATELLITE DISH?

A caravan satellite dish is a compact device that receives TV signals from satellites orbiting the Earth. It allows caravanners to access a wide range of channels – including UK Freeview and Freesat channels – regardless of local aerial coverage.

Satellite TV is especially useful when touring abroad, where streaming services may be restricted or mobile data expensive.

Micha/Shutterstock

A roof-mounted satellite dish

Pixabay

HOW DOES A CARAVAN SATELLITE DISH WORK?

Most UK users rely on the Astra 2 satellite, positioned in geostationary orbit over the southern sky. A caravan dish focuses radio signals onto an LNB (low-noise block downconverter), which sends them via a cable to your satellite decoder or TV with built-in tuner. From there, the decoded signal displays on your TV screen – no internet is required.

TYPES OF CARAVAN SATELLITE DISHES

There are three main types of satellite systems for caravans.

The best option for you depends on your budget, travel habits, and how hands-on you want to be.

Suction-mounted satellite dishes

- Portable and easy to position.
- Attaches to the caravan side using strong suction mounts.
- Ideal for UK use
- Requires manual alignment

Best for: UK use; budget-conscious caravanners.

Tripod-mounted satellite dishes

- Free-standing and adjustable height
- Often supports larger dish sizes for better signal abroad
- Needs to be manually set up and aligned at each stop
- More flexibility for positioning in clear line-of-sight areas

Best for: Caravanners heading into France, Spain, or rural areas needing a stronger signal

Roof-mounted automatic satellite system

- Permanently installed on the caravan roof
- Auto-aligns to pre-programmed satellites at the press of a button
- Tidy, cable-free set-up
- Weighs around 10kg — check your caravan payload allowance

Best for: Frequent travellers, or anyone who wants press-and-play convenience.

»

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU NEED FOR CARAVAN SATELLITE TV?

To get started with a caravan satellite setup, you'll need:

- A caravan satellite dish (suction, tripod, or roof-mounted)
- An LNB (included with most dishes)
- A TV with built-in satellite tuner, or a separate satellite decoder
- Coaxial cable

Optional tools for a caravan satellite set-up:

- Satellite signal finder or app (eg SatFinder, DishPointer)
- Compass (for manual alignment)
- Mount or tripod (if applicable)

WHAT IS THE BEST SATELLITE DISH FOR A CARAVAN?

There's no one-size-fits-all answer.

Consider the following:

- Budget-friendly
- Suction-mounted
- Touring across Europe
- Larger tripod-mounted
- Roof-mounted automatic
- Minimal payload impact
- Suction or tripod-mounted
- Remember, the larger the dish, the wider the coverage – especially important when travelling further into Europe

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- **Line of sight is essential:** trees or tall buildings will block reception
- **Weather matters:** roof-mounted systems often perform better in poor conditions
- **Payload:** roof-mounted dishes can affect your caravan's weight limit
- **Manual vs automatic:** manual systems are cheaper but need set-up time; automatic ones cost more but offer convenience

WHAT IS THE BEST SIZE DISH FOR A CARAVAN?

This is primarily a matter of personal preference and budget.

UK caravanners may find a smaller suction-mounted unit suitable for occasional use, while hardy European caravanners will need a larger dish.

DO I NEED A SATELLITE DISH FOR A CARAVAN?

If you like to watch TV while on holiday in your caravan, satellite systems are a worthy alternative to streaming services. After the initial investment, they are also cheaper to use.

They are great for European travellers as UK channels can be enjoyed without the complications of data roaming.

HOW TO FIT A CARAVAN SATELLITE DISH TO YOUR CARAVAN

The three main types of satellite dishes give each caravan owner options. Suction-mounted and tripod-mounted systems are 'standalone' and can be used when required or moved to another caravan. A roof-mounted system is a doddle to use but will be fitted permanently.

Pixabay

HOW TO FIND A TV SATELLITE SIGNAL IN YOUR CARAVAN

- Assemble the satellite dish and tripod/suction mount
- Point the dish due south. A compass or phone app can be used
- Connect the cable to the LNB
- Now connect the other end of the cable to the TV (if it has a built-in decoder) or to the satellite decoder unit. If necessary, connect the decoder to the TV
- Point your dish at the relevant satellite using a free app such as DishPointer or SatFinder Lite. These apps use 'augmented reality' to map each satellite. A compass can be used, but it tends to be less accurate
- Set to the correct elevation. The Dish Align app can help
- Fine-tune satellite reception with a signal finder. They cost around £20.

YOUR AT-A-GLANCE SET-UP GUIDE

- Assemble the dish and mount (tripod or suction).
- Point it south – most UK satellite signals come from the southern sky.
- Use a signal-finding app or a compass to find the Astra 2 satellite.
- Adjust elevation angle (around 21–28° depending on your UK location).
- Connect the LNB to your decoder or TV.
- Fine-tune the alignment using a signal strength meter or app.
- Scan for channels using your decoder or TV settings.
- Bear in mind that trees, buildings, and hills can block your signal, choose your pitch wisely.

FAQS

How do I find satellite TV stations?
All new Avtex TVs have a preloaded channel list, so your TV will work once a signal is found. If you use a TV with no preloaded channels, locate the satellite first and scan for new channels.

Can I use my Sky box?
Before Sky Q, the answer was yes. All previous Sky boxes are compatible with Maxview systems; plug them in like a free-to-air receiver. However, Sky Q receivers work differently, therefore the standard range of automatic systems is incompatible. Consequently, Maxview has launched Sky Q-compatible Precision (tripod-mounted manual system) and a Sky Q-compatible Target (roof-mounted automatic system). Alternatively, if you have a manual or portable system, you can upgrade the LNB.

What size caravan satellite dish do I need?
A 40cm dish is sufficient for the UK and, possibly, the very edge of northern France. A 55cm satellite dish extends the coverage to northern France. The middle of France requires a 65cm dish, 75cm covers most of France, and the French-Spanish border is achievable with an 85cm dish.

How much elevation is needed for a caravan satellite dish?
In the UK, the Astra 2 satellite is between 21 degrees (Scotland) and 28 degrees (southern England).

How much does a caravan satellite system cost?
A good-quality, branded, suction-mounted system for a caravan will likely cost £150, with a larger tripod-mounted satellite system being around £250. Roof-mounted systems are upwards of £1,400.

Do I need a decoder box?
Many 12V caravan TVs include a built-in satellite decoder. If not, you'll need a standalone decoder (e.g. Freesat or Sky box).

What size satellite dish do I need for European coverage?
Region Recommended Dish Size UK and southern England 40cm–50cm; Northern France 55cm; Central France 65cm; Spanish border 75–85cm.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Caravan satellite systems allow people to watch television from destinations across the UK and Europe.

Once purchased, they won't eat into your phone's data plan or attract additional charges when overseas.

They do, however, require line of sight to the satellite, which trees and tall buildings can block. Choose a dish type based on your future travel plans, and you'll be able to receive satellite TV from within the UK, France or Spain.

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Caravan leisure batteries: all you need to know is here

A caravan leisure battery is an essential component, powering your lights and water pump. Unlike car batteries, which deliver short bursts of power to start engines, leisure batteries provide a steady energy supply over extended periods.

Choosing the right battery can significantly improve your caravanning experience. This guide explores leisure battery types, how to choose the best one for your needs, charging considerations, and maintenance tips.

HOW DO LEISURE BATTERIES WORK?

Leisure batteries store 12V DC power. They can be recharged via multiple sources, including:

- A charger installed in the caravan
- Mains hook-ups at campsites
- Solar panels with charge controllers
- Proper charging, maintenance, and monitoring are essential for maximising battery lifespan and performance.

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FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A LEISURE BATTERY

Battery capacity (Ah)
Higher amp-hour (Ah) capacity means more stored energy. Choose based on your power needs:

- 60-85Ah – weekend trips with minimal power usage
- 85-110Ah – standard caravanning
- 110Ah+ – extended off-grid stays with multiple appliances

Price vs performance
Lithium leisure batteries cost more but last longer, while lead acid batteries are cheaper but need frequent replacement.

Usage frequency
Frequent off-grid touring? Choose lithium or AGM. Occasional caravanner? A lead acid or gel battery will suffice.

MAINTENANCE

- Charge every 4-6 weeks if not in use
- Clean terminals and apply anti-corrosion spray

CHARGING YOUR BATTERY

Follow these tips:

- Avoid full discharge – for lead-acid, recharge at 50% capacity; lithium can go lower
- Use a multi-stage charger – prevents overcharging and extends battery life
- Solar trickle charging – ensures battery health during storage

DRY PLATES

Check the fluid levels every few months and top up with distilled or deionised water.

For open lead-acid batteries, the electrolyte level naturally decreases over time. If the fluid level drops too low, the battery plates can dry out, leading to internal damage.

TESTING A LEISURE BATTERY

To check battery health, use a digital voltmeter:

- 12.7V+ – fully charged
- 12.4V – 75% charged
- 12.2V – 50% charged (time to recharge!)
- 12.0V or lower – fully discharged (may cause permanent damage)

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AVON LFP
ALFP1284BT
AVON LEISURE
HEAVY DUTY BATTERY

ncc suppliers & services member

Where will this Season take you?

Tel - 0808 1680635

www.bblbatteries.co.uk sales@bblbatteries.co.uk

EXTENDING THE LIFE OF YOUR LEISURE BATTERY

A well-maintained battery will last far longer than one that is neglected. Understanding proper care techniques will ensure you get the most out of your leisure battery.

Lead acid batteries should not drop below 12.2V regularly, while lithium can go lower.

Always recharge your battery as soon as possible after use.

If a lead acid battery remains discharged for an extended period, the sulphation process may become irreversible.

AGM and lithium batteries have lower self-discharge rates but need monitoring.

Leaving a battery in a partially discharged state for too long can lead to sulphation, where lead sulphate crystals form on the battery plates, reducing its ability to hold a charge.

YUASA
ACTIVE
LEISURE & MARINE
L36-100

Yuasa Active battery

AVON LFP
ALFP12100BT

Avon LFP lithium

AVON ADC
Lead Acid AGM Gel Battery
ADC12-90EV
Maintenance Free
Deep Cycle

Avon ADC Deep Cycle

DRY CELL
Traction Valve Regulated Battery
Discover

Discover battery Dry Cell

All available from BBL Batteries

TYPES OF CARAVAN LEISURE BATTERIES

Different leisure battery types suit different needs. Below are the most common options:

Lithium leisure batteries (LiFePO4)

- Lithium (LiFePO4) batteries are the most advanced and long-lasting option
- Up to 50% lighter than lead-acid batteries
- Can safely discharge to 10-20% capacity
- Last up to 10 years (3,000+ cycles)
- Maintain voltage stability under load
- Prevent overcharging, overheating, and deep discharge

AGM (absorbent glass mat) batteries

- Popular due to durability and low maintenance need
- Spill-proof, vibration-resistant and deep-cycle capable
- Charge faster than traditional lead acid batteries
- Ideal for medium to heavy use

Gel batteries

- Use gel electrolyte instead of liquid
- Maintenance-free and highly resistant to extreme conditions
- More expensive but last longer

Lead acid batteries

- Suitable for caravanners who use electrical hook-ups regularly
- Heavy and require regular maintenance (for non-sealed versions)
- Lower lifespan compared to AGM and lithium
- Less efficient at deep discharge

Lead crystal batteries

- A newer, premium alternative to lead-acid
- Longer lifespan and deeper discharge cycles
- Better performance in extreme temperatures
- Higher cost but lower self-discharge rate

EXPERT ADVICE FROM BBLBATTERIES

1. How long does a leisure battery last?

A well-maintained leisure battery typically lasts between three and five years. Lifespan depends on usage patterns, depth of discharge and charging habits. Regular maintenance, avoiding overdischarge and using a smart charger can significantly extend battery life, keeping your power supply reliable during off-grid stays.

A premium-quality lithium leisure battery, such as the Avon LFP range, offers a significantly extended life by supporting many more charge cycles compared to traditional lead acid batteries. This increased cycle volume ensures longer usability, greater reliability and reduced long-term replacement costs.

2. What size leisure battery do I need?

The right size leisure battery depends on your energy usage. An 85Ah battery suits most caravans for basic appliances like lights and a fridge. If you use higher-draw devices or go off-grid often, consider 120Ah or larger. Calculate your daily consumption to choose the best capacity for your needs. Alternatively, call the BBL Battery experts on 0808 168 0635 who will offer you the very best advice depending on your exact application and usage.

3. How to charge a leisure battery?

Leisure batteries can be charged via a mains smart charger, solar panel, or vehicle alternator. Quality Smart chargers, such as the Avon AC1220B, are best for longevity. Solar is ideal for off-grid use. Ensure regular charging, avoid deep discharges, and never leave it flat – this helps maximise performance and lifespan.

4. What is the best leisure battery for a caravan?

AGM and lithium batteries are top choices for caravans. AGM offers good performance at a lower cost, while lithium is lighter, lasts longer, and charges faster. For frequent off-grid use, lithium is worth the investment. Choose deep-cycle types designed specifically for leisure applications for best results.

Contact info

W bblbatteries.co.uk
T 0808 168 0635 (freephone)
E sales@bblbatteries.co.uk

BBLBATTERIES ■

NEW GEAR

Outdoor cooking and eating are an integral part of summer caravanning, so we've been taking a look around our Out & About Live online shop for equipment to inspire you. Gas and electric barbecues, a sophisticated drinks infuser, a super-lightweight table and some stylish acrylic tumblers… there's a lot to inspire you here. A low-wattage toaster and a kettle came under our spotlight, too. Then we sought out some practical items and spotted an outdoor bin, a reel for your mains cable – and even a washing-up bowl…

Go to W outandaboutshop.hooluh.co.uk

Swiss Luxx Deluxe Low Wattage Caravan Toaster

Just like a kettle, if you use a toaster in your caravan, you need a low-wattage type, so that you don't trip out the power supply to your pitch. This one has a 750W rating.

It's sleek and simple in style, white in colour, so will look good in any caravan kitchen, and has an adjustable browning control. Importantly, it has a removable crumb tray.

Its size is reasonably compact, at 18cm by 16cm by 26cm. It weighs 1.2 kg. And it has integrated cord storage.

PRICE £37.20

Thule Trash Bin 50L

You may think £51 is a lot to spend on a bin – but when you analyse the practicalities, it has many merits. We all know that the bins fixed to caravan doors are not great. They're so small that they have to be emptied very frequently – and who wants rubbish in your caravan lounge anyway? After all, you wouldn't have a bin in your lounge at home!

Keeping rubbish outside, or in an awning, is obviously far better than inside the caravan – but you need to be sure that the lid is very well fitting, to keep any niffs locked inside, and to make sure, if you, or your dog's tail, knocks it over, that the contents can't spill. This one has a secure lid, so eliminating possibilities of any flies or wasps finding their way inside.

Its 50-litre capacity means you don't need to visit the campsite bins too often. It's made from durable, weather-resistant polypropylene. It's 60cm high, 40cm wide, and 35cm deep, weighs only 2.5kg. and it has integrated handles.

PRICE £51.03

Crusader Table Top Gas BBQ

A compact gas barbecue that's easy to store. It has two burners, a piezo ignition system, adjustable heat settings and a cast iron grate that's removable for cleaning.

Weighing 7kg and with a cooking surface of 36cm by 26cm, this barbecue comes highly recommended. Its dimensions are 54cm by 40cm by 30cm.

PRICE £34.39

Olpro Collapsible Washing Up Bowl

After your outdoor cooking, if the campsite on which you're staying has a dishwashing area, you'll need something in which to take your dishes to it. Just £10 buys you this collapsible rectangular bowl.

Its dimensions in use are 38.5cm high, 28.5cm long and 15.5cm deep.

PRICE £10

Royal Premium Mains Lead 10m

Just occasionally, you find a campsite where the electric hook-up is more than 25m from your pitch. So you need an extension cable as part of your kit. It's also very useful if you connect your caravan to a hook-up in your garden – as we do.

It weighs 15kg.

PRICE £31.51

Quest Superlite Burford Folding Table

For all this outdoor eating you'll need a folding table. There's a great range on our online shop; we picked this one, for its very affordable price and its light weight – just 3.2kg.

Its frame is made of aluminium and its top is melamine, so easily to wipe clean. It measures 80cm by 60cm by 68cm when unfolded. When its legs are folded, it's just 5cm deep, so really easy to store under a caravan bed or seating area.

PRICE £37.36

NGT Aluminium Outdoor 1.1L Kettle

We picked this item because it looks rather retro and also a touch like something traditional that you'd suspend above a campfire. While you'd be unlikely to use it like that, it's a cool-looking item – and it's only £14.27. It's perfect for using on a gas or electric outdoor stove.

Made from lightweight aluminium and with a heat-resistant handle, it weighs a mere 250g. It measures 15cm in height and 16cm in diameter. Its narrow spout is designed for precision pouring.

PRICE £14.27

Swiss Luxx Caravan and Motorhome Electric BBQ 800w

Some campsites don't allow real-fire barbecues, because of fire risk. So your options are gas barbecues – or this one, great value and very compact. Well, let's be honest, it calls itself a barbecue but it's actually a grill – and a very nice asset to your outdoor cooking kit.

It includes a non-stick grill plate and adjustable temperature control, making it ideal for a variety of dishes.

Its compact size is just 35cm by 26cm by 10cm. It weighs 2.5kg. It comes with a 1.5-metre cable.

PRICE £16.70

Flamefield Infuser 1L Bottle Set with 4 Matching Glasses

Now this is really cool! It enables you to get sophisticated and impress your guests by infusing your water, fruit juice or even wine, with herbs or fruit. It's made from high-quality plastic and comes with four matching glasses.

From the same manufacturer comes a range of acrylic tumblers, in blue and aqua shades. A pack of two blue tumblers costs £18.73. these have a 500ml capacity. They're 15cm tall and 7.5cm in diameter. The aqua tumblers are slightly larger, at 18cm in height and 8cm in diameter. These cost £28.49.

PRICE £22.08

Infuser
Bottle
Set
with 4 matching glasses
1 Ltr Capacity
Break Resistant SAN Material

Royal Mains Hook Up Extension Cord Reel 25m

Keeping a caravan mains cable tidy when you transport it, either in the luggage area of your car or in an outside locker, can sometimes be a challenge, You coil it up – and then it becomes uncoiled as soon as you put it down… Enter a purpose-made device to prevent this from happening. We've had one of these reels for years; it's a bit sun-faded now, but it still does the job nicely – and easily.

Made of durable PVC, it's bright orange for visibility. It's around 30cm in diameter and has a handle to rotate to reel your mains cable onto it. There's plenty of space for your 25m cable on the reel.

PRICE £17.09

NEWS & VIEWS

NCC backs Back British Holidays campaign

The National Caravan Council (NCC) has officially thrown its weight behind the Back British Holidays campaign, urging the Government to take immediate action to safeguard the UK's domestic tourism sector from further decline.

Back British Holidays, launched by Out & About Live, is a national campaign which calls for urgent support from the Government to reduce the rapid loss of visitor numbers within the UK domestic tourism industry and to safeguard the small businesses within.

A petition has also been created for people to lend their voices to this campaign.

Representing around 700 businesses across the caravan, motorhome, holiday park, and residential home industries, the NCC's support adds significant momentum to the campaign, which is calling for better promotion, financial backing, and infrastructure improvements for UK tourism.

The NCC's Deputy Director General, Alicia Dunne, commented, "Any decline in domestic holidays puts jobs, livelihoods, and businesses at risk.

"We're really pleased to put our support to the Back British Holidays campaign, which aims to highlight and celebrate a vital part of the UK economy – our wonderful domestic tourism sector and especially holiday parks and our leisure vehicle industry."

The campaign's latest report warns of a potential 32% drop in domestic holidays, forecasting a £23.2 billion loss in visitor spending if action isn't taken. Rural communities, coastal resorts, and small tourism businesses are already feeling the pressure.

Alicia Dunne, also stated that: "By backing the campaign, we're calling on Government decision-makers to actively protect and promote the UK holiday sector and our great British staycation. We are also urging our members to support the campaign."

THE CAMPAIGN'S RECOMMENDATIONS

By joining the campaign, the NCC is backing a series of key recommendations, including sustained promotion of UK holidays, increased financial support for businesses, and collaboration to manage rising operational costs. The campaign also advocates for the development of green tourism initiatives and strengthened tourism zones across the UK.

The campaign's recommendations urge the Government to:

- Sustain and enhance promotion of domestic tourism
- Boost financial support for tourism businesses
- Collaborate to manage inflation and operational costs
- Empower local government in tourism development

Royal caravan celebrates 70 years with special exhibition

A special exhibition has opened at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, marking the seventieth anniversary of the Royal caravan – a unique miniature caravan gifted to Prince Charles and Princess Anne in 1955.

Built by Rollalong Caravans, in Hampshire, the caravan was a gift from the Caravan and Motorhome Club in recognition of the Duke of Edinburgh's patronage.

Designed to be roadworthy and fully equipped, the 6ft 9in-long caravan included interior lights, working fittings, and custom furnishings such as a Poole Pottery tea set and Beatrix Potter books.

The Royal caravan was re-presented to Princess Anne following its refurbishment to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Caravan Club in 1982.

Bank holiday dates

There are more bank holidays upcoming to entice you to book long weekend breaks.

Here are the dates to inspire you:

England and Wales:
Monday, 25 August:
Summer Bank Holiday

Scotland:
Monday 4 August:
Summer Bank Holiday
Monday 1 December:
St Andrew's Day
(substitute day)

Northern Ireland:
Monday 14 July:
Battle of the Boyne
Monday 25 August:
Summer Bank Holiday

Explore the great outdoors this spring with the Caravan and Motorhome Club

As temperatures begin to rise, the Caravan and Motorhome Club is encouraging caravanners to book a getaway. With hundreds of Club campsites all over the country and prices starting at £35.20 per night, there is every opportunity to make the most of the onset of summer.

Some of the top places the Caravan and Motorhome Club has suggested for this summer are:

Ayr Craigie Gardens Club Campsite
Located within the Craigie Estate in Ayr, Scotland, close to the River Ayr and within walking distance of Ayr town, the Ayr Craigie Gardens Club campsite has access to beaches, shopping, and nearby attractions including Ayr Racecourse. Prices start from £35.20 for a pitch for two adults.

Caravan and Motorhome Club

Ayr Craigie Gardens Club Campsite

Godrevy Club campsite
The Godrevy club campsite is located near a beach facing St Ives Bay, Cornwall, and offers access to scenic cliff paths and nearby Cornish fishing villages. The site reopened in August, 2024, following improvements. Prices start from £37.30.

White Water Park club campsite
Located in Stockton-on-Tees, White Water Park club campsite is adjacent to Britain's largest international-standard white-water canoeing and rafting course, offering easy access to its facilities and nearby attractions including Teesside Park for shopping and dining, and over 30 miles of coastline for birdwatching and exploring fishing villages. Prices start from £35.90.

Caravan and Motorhome Club

Incleboro Fields club campsite in Norfolk offers sea views

Incleboro Fields club campsite
Set on a terraced hillside in Norfolk and providing sea views and woodland pitches, the Incleboro Fields club campsite is ideal for dog walkers and beach lovers. Located near West Runton village, it provides easy access to local attractions, pubs, and restaurants, and is close to Cromer and Sheringham, on the coast. Prices start from £35.40.

The Big Little Wellness Weekend at Holkham

The Caravan and Motorhome Club has announced that the opening weekend of its Holkham Hall pop-up campsite will be offering the Big Little Wellness Weekend from 15 to 17 August, 2025.

The Caravan and Motorhome Club's pop-up site at the Holkham Estate, in north Norfolk, runs from 14 August to 10 September.

The event's theme is movement, mindfulness and the great outdoors.

This will be open to all attendees who can take part in energising exercise classes, calming sound baths and wild foraging around the estate.

With all of this combined, it's no surprise that you'll feel more connected to nature, and calm and peaceful throughout the weekend. Wellness and fitness classes will offer yoga, stretch and tone, Pilates and relaxing sound baths Outdoor adventures to try your hand at are wilderness workshops, foraging, football, frisbee and garden games. Evening entertainment will include live music, a comedy night and a quiz/games night.

Find out more at: **caravanclub.co.uk/whats-on/pop-up-campsites/holkham-hall/wellness-weekend**

Pilates, yoga and stretches are all about improving your muscle strength, balance and flexibility skills.

brainteasers

puzzles to exercise your mind when at home or in the caravan

sudoku

If you are looking for a way to exercise your mind, sudoku is great and will certainly get the cogs turning!

	8		9		3			
7	9		6					3
2					5		4	
				1				
	3	7		8	2			
			3				8	
						4		8
1		2						9
4						7	1	

crossword

1		2		3		4	■	5		6		7
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
8							■	9				
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
10					■	11						
■	■	■	■		■		■	■	■		■	
12		13				■	14	15				
	■		■	■	■	16	■		■	■	■	■
17				18			■	19		20		21
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
22					■	23						
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
24					■	25						

ACROSS

1 Finger protector for sewing (7)
5 Computer storage device from the 1990s (2-3)
8 Forever young and timeless (7)
9 Garden shelter with climbing plants (5)
10 Running count or score (5)
11 Reading stand for speeches (7)
12 State of abandonment or neglect (6)
14 Material used to plug gaps (6)
17 Japanese martial art focusing on throws (7)
19 Containing nothing at all (5)
22 Steep slide for moving items down (5)
23 Wild fern growing in woodlands (7)
24 Bright with pleasant weather (5)
25 Small racing vehicles (2-5)

DOWN

1 Distinctive personal characteristic (5)
2 Perfect example or standard (5)
3 Childish term for bedtime (3-4)
4 Store crops as animal feed (6)
5 Having three equal dimensions (5)
6 Unfair treatment or arrangement (3,4)
7 Professional seafarer (7)
12 Makes deeply unhappy (7)
13 Brief stay or visit (7)
15 Cold compress for injuries (3,4)
16 Deceptive nonsense (6)
18 Extremely small (5)
20 Card game of bluffing (5)
21 Long time period (5)

just for fun

Find 16 holiday terms

M	U	S	E	U	M	L	Y	E	K	C
O	M	T	U	V	A	L	L	E	Y	W
U	B	O	A	N	A	T	U	R	E	I
N	E	P	Q	Z	S	C	H	I	L	L
T	A	O	F	A	R	H	A	H	X	D
A	C	V	C	I	T	Y	I	F	I	L
I	H	E	G	A	R	D	E	N	E	I
N	F	R	Z	Z	O	O	K	D	E	F
S	C	O	A	S	T	R	A	I	R	E
G	A	T	T	R	A	C	T	I	O	N
Z	H	F	Z	P	C	L	I	F	F	S

your scribbles

ANSWERS ACROSS: 1 thimble, 5 CD-ROM, 8 ageless, 9 bower, 10 tally, 11 lectern, 12 disuse, 14 filler, 17 jujitsu, 19 empty, 22 chute, 23 bracken, 24 sunny, 25 go-karts
DOWN: 1 trait, 2 ideal, 3 bye-byes, 4 ensile, 5 cubic, 6 raw deal, 7 mariner, 12 dejects, 13 sojourn, 15 ice pack, 16 humbug, 18 teeny, 20 poker, 21 yonks

"I GO TO NATURE TO BE SOOTHED AND HEALED, AND TO HAVE MY SENSE PUT IN ORDER"

JOHN BURROUGHS

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★ OUT AND ABOUT LIVE CARAVAN DEALER OF THE YEAR 2025 ★ | FAMILY RUN BUSINESS | HUGE CHOICE OF STOCK

ADRIA BAILEY BUCCANEER Elddis ERIBA SWIFT TRIGANO XPLORE

A Selection of **NEW CARAVANS**

SA - Single Axle **TA** - Twin Axle

2025 Swift Sprite Grande Quattro EB Excl	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£31,995
2024 Coachman VIP 460	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£31,995
2025 Bailey Pegasus Gr GT75 Messina	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£32,144
2025 Bailey Pegasus Gr GT75 Bologna	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£32,144
2025 Coachman Acadia 545	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£32,205
2025 Coachman Acadia 575	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£32,205
2025 Bailey Unicorn Deluxe Madrid	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£32,344
2024 Eriba Touring 420	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£32,495
2024 Eriba Touring 540	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£32,995
2025 Bailey Unicorn Deluxe Cadiz	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£33,044
2025 Bailey Unicorn Deluxe Cabrera	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£33,044
2025 Bailey Unicorn Deluxe Vigo	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£33,044
2025 Elddis Avante 840	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£33,249
2024 Eriba Touring 530 Urban Edition	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£33,995
2025 Coachman VIP 460	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£34,445
2025 Swift Challenger Grande 560 L SE	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£34,645
2025 Swift Challenger Exclusive 560	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£34,895
2024 Eriba Touring 542	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£34,995
2022 Swift Elegance 845	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£34,995
2025 Bailey Unicorn Deluxe Pamplona	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£35,644
2024 Swift Challenger Grande SE 670	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£35,995
2024 Elddis Crusader Borealis	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£35,995
2024 Eriba Touring 630 White Silver Finish	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£35,995
2024 Eriba Touring 642 White Silver Finish	DEVON	SA	3 Berth	£35,995
2024 Bailey Alicanto Grande Evora	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£36,144
2025 Coachman Acadia 675 Xtra	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£36,805
2025 Eriba Touring 530	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£37,150
2025 Swift Challenger Grande 635 SE	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£37,245
2025 Swift Challenger Grande 650 L SE	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£37,245
2025 Bailey Alicanto Grande Deluxe Sintra	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£38,344
2023 Eriba Touring 542 Urban Edition	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£38,450
2024 Swift Elegance Grande 780	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£38,745
2023 Swift Elegance Grande 845	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£38,745
2024 Swift Elegance Grande 760	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£38,745
2024 Elddis Crusader Zephyr	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£38,995
2025 Coachman VIP 675	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£40,000
2025 Bailey Alicanto Grande Deluxe Alvor	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£40,144
2025 Bailey Alicanto Grande Deluxe Porto	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£40,144
2025 Bailey Alicanto Grande Deluxe Evora	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£40,144
2025 Coachman Laser 575 Xtra	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£40,535
2025 Elddis Crusader Zephyr	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£40,749
2025 Elddis Crusader Borealis	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£41,249
2024 Coachman Laser Xcel 875	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£41,995
2025 Buccaneer Cruiser	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£46,449
2025 Buccaneer Barracuda	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£47,249
2025 Coachman Lusso II	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£52,195

A Selection of **USED CARAVANS**

www.highbridgecaravans.co.uk

2019 Swift Eccles 560	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,495
2024 Swift Basecamp 2	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£20,495
2020 Swift Eccles 580	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£20,495
2023 Compass Casita 550	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2022 Sprite Major 4 EB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2024 Elddis Xplore 554	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2023 Bailey Phoenix Plus 644	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£20,995
2023 Sprite Major 6TD	SOMERSET	SA	6 Berth	£21,495
2022 Sprite Major Super 4SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,495
2022 Sprite Major 4 SB Super	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£21,495
2022 Sprite Major Super 4 SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,495
2019 Eriba 530 Rockabilly	DEVON	SA	3 Berth	£21,495
2023 Sprite Major 4 SB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,995
2021 Adria Adora Seine	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,995
2023 Compass Capiro 574	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£21,995
2024 Sprite Major 6 TD	SOMERSET	SA	6 Berth	£21,995
2022 Sprite Quattro FB	DEVON	TA	6 Berth	£21,995
2018 Swift Conqueror 645	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£21,995
2017 Swift Conqueror 645	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£22,495
2022 Bailey Pegasus Brindisi Grande	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£22,495
2023 Swift Vogue 560 EB	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£22,995
2022 Adria Isonzo	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£22,995
2020 Sprite Coastline D/E Q4 EB	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£22,995
2024 Bailey Gt75 Phoenix 762	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£22,995
2023 Swift Vogue 560	SOMERSET	SA	6 Berth	£22,995
2023 Bailey Unicorn V Seville	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£22,995
2025 Sprite Alpine Exclusive 2	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£22,995
2022 Swift Conqueror 480	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£23,495
2022 Bailey Unicorn V Madrid	SOMERSET	SA	3 Berth	£23,495
2022 Swift Challenger 580	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£23,495
2024 Elddis Avante 550	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£23,495
2020 Swift Elegance 580	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£23,995
2021 Swift Challenger X 880	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£23,995
2024 Elddis Avante 554	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£23,995
2024 Swift Celebrate 4 EB	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£24,495
2023 Swift Conqueror 480	SOMERSET	SA	2 Berth	£24,995
2020 Bailey Alicanto Sintra	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£24,995
2022 Swift Challenger X 880	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£25,495
2020 Bailey Alicanto Sl Porto	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£25,495
2021 Adria Alpina Mississipi	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£25,995
2022 Bailey Unicorn V Pamplona	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£26,995
2024 Coachman Acadia 545	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£26,995
2023 Bailey Unicorn V Cartagena	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£27,495
2023 Bailey Unicorn V Pamplona	DEVON	TA	4 Berth	£27,495
2022 Swift Conqueror 580	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£27,995
2023 Swift Conqueror 560	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£27,995
2023 Swift Chall Grande 560l SE	SOMERSET	TA	6 Berth	£27,995
2023 Bailey Alicanto S2 Lisbon	DEVON	SA	4 Berth	£29,995
2023 Coachman VIP 575	SOMERSET	SA	4 Berth	£30,495
2023 Bailey Alicanto Porto	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£31,495
2022 Swift Elegance 845	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£32,495
2021 Coachman Laser Xcel 850	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£32,995
2021 Coachman Laser 845	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£32,995
2021 Coachman Lusso 2	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£37,995
2022 Coachman Lusso II	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£38,995
2024 Buccaneer Barracuda	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£38,995
2023 Buccaneer Bermuda	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£39,995
2024 Coachman Laser Xcel 855	SOMERSET	TA	4 Berth	£39,995

Somerset Branch: 01278 782725
A38 Bristol Road, Highbridge, Somerset, TA9 4EX

Devon Branch: 01626 832792
Higher Brocks Plantation, Teigngrace, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6QZ

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